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POLITICAL PARTIES INVITED TO NICARAGUAN MEETING

PY041733 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (NA) -- Leaders of the main Argentine political parties have been especially invited by the Nicaraguan Sandinist front to attend the conference of Latin American and Caribbean political parties during which there will be an exchange of ideas about the present situation in Central America and the threat of invasion of Nicaragua. The conference will be held in Managua from 10-12 February. It will gather 112 delegates from 96 Latin American political parties. No Latin American guerrilla-like group will be represented. The conference will strive to strengthen the concepts of "nonintervention and peace in Central America."

An invitation extended to the Justicialist Party was specifically sent to the leader of the Buenos Aires renewal front, Antonio Cafiero, and not the official hierarchy of the Justicialist Party. In view of reports regarding the attendance of Peronist representatives at the meeting, the National Justicialist Council that is chaired by Senator Vicente Saadi noted that "it has not appointed any representative and that it has not received any invitation to attend the meeting in question."

Although there have been no official statements, it has been learned that political leaders from the following parties have been invited to the conference: the Radical Civic Union [UCR], the Intransigent Party, the Communist Party, the Movement Toward Socialism [MAS], the Workers Party, the Christian Democracy Party [PDC] and Unified Socialism, which is a member of the Authentic Socialism. During the meeting of political parties, the Sandinist front, which is hosting the conference, will give the representatives of the different political parties detailed information about the conflict that Nicaragua is experiencing and the real possibilities of U.S. aggression.

The Sandinist front has taken particular care in omitting any Latin American group linked to guerrilla activities from the conference and instead has invited political groups that represent the three trends of international socialism. It has been reported that in keeping with the criteria established by the Sandinist front, the following groups have been invited and have confirmed their attendance: the Democratic Revolutionary Front [FDR] from El Salvador, the Tupamaros group in Uruguay, and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia].

TEACHERS JOIN OPPOSITION COALITION, UNITY SOUGHT

PY041838 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2135 GMT 2 Feb 86

[By Santiago Deiz]

[Text] Santiago, 2 Feb (EFE) -- Dr Juan Luis Gonzalez, president of the Federation of Chilean Professionals [Federacion de Colegios Profesionales Universitarios de Chile], today stated that the federation he heads will make 1986 "the year of unity." Gonzalez is one of the most representative figures of the group which opposes the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet. Dr Gonzalez, who is also president of the influential Chilean Medical Association, has expressed satisfaction over the Chilean Teachers Association's decision to join the federation. The teachers association has more than 80,000 members.

The teachers association is the 25th association to join the federation that groups the most important associations of Chilean professionals. Asked about the federation's program for 1986, Gonzalez stated that "it can be summarized in a single word: unity." In his role as president of the Chilean doctors, who on 30 January staged a 24-hour national strike, Dr Gonzalez said that "our mobilization will continue in a stronger, more intense, and extended manner."

Gonzalez outlined the objectives of the union struggle undertaken by the doctors, stating that what is worrying them now is "the reinstatement of Dr Ricardo Vacarezza, president of the Santiago regional zone, fired from his state post as part of the government persecution." Gonzalez added: "We are concerned about the right to health of all Chileans, the abolishment of the law on health, which we consider a serious blow to national health and a radical change of the financial policy in the health sector."

Regarding the strike staged on 30 January, the chairman of the doctors association stated that there was "between 85 to 100 percent absenteeism at Santiago and provincial hospitals." Moreover, Dr Max Montero, regional secretary of the Health Ministry, admitted the day after the strike that there was an 80 percent absentee rate among doctors, although his immediate superior, Health Minister Winston Chinchon stated that those figures "had been misinterpreted."

In an interview granted today to the newspaper EL MERCURIO, Dr Montero warns that the doctors' strike includes "a little bit of everything, including a policy of opposition, and the fact that many feel frustrated in their aspirations because the hospitals do not fully meet their demands." After announcing that the government will not take measures against those doctors who joined the strike, Dr Montero admitted that "there could have been bad administration in some hospitals, because we cannot say that we do not have some responsibility."

Asked whether the military government had considered the importance of the doctors' association and its opposition to the government, taking into account the fact that the doctors also opposed Salvador Allende's government, Dr Montero stated that there is no doubt that "the fall of Allende's government was promoted through the doctors strikes." Montero concluded by saying that 'for this reason the government is carefully studying the situation and is considering its significance."

MAPU, CHRISTIAN LEFT JOIN SOCIALIST OPPOSITION

PY042159 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] The United Popular Action Movement, MAPU, and the Christian Left have agreed to carry out a policy of joint cooperation because they share the same viewpoint regarding the national situation, a similar strategy of struggle against the military regime, and finally a similar aspiration to establish a vast socialist force in the country. This was stated this morning by top-ranking leaders of the two parties, Luis Maira and Victor Varrueto, who were accompanied by other party leaders.

In a joint declaration the Christian Left and MAPU expressed that their objective is to try to end the present regime by using a vast mobilization that will make the country ungovernable by the Pinochet regime. Leader Jaime Cataldo noted that this way excludes both negotiation [with the regime] and the militarization of the struggle.

[Begin Cataldo recording] This strategy excludes as a means to achieve democracy both the holding of negotiations with the Pinochet dictatorship and the militarization of the struggle against the regime. It will be the decisive, sustained, and ample action of national majorities that will be the decisive element in charging the president situation. As a result of the mobilization of the masses, the Armed Forces will be compelled to seek an agreement with civilian, political, and social forces and thus fully accept the principle of the sovereignty of the people, which is expressed through free and democratic means. [end recording]

The declaration adds that the Christian Left and MAPU support the National Accord and that they particularly praise the measures included in the Accord. They add that they also praise the proposals made by the Democratic Intransigence Movement, of which they are members, and support the Chile Declaration [Pliego de Chile] that has been promoted by the National Workers Commando [CNT]. The two parties also express that they are committed to the task of establishing a great socialist force in Chile.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The MAPU and the Christian Left hereby recognize themselves as members of the Chilean Socialist movement. The two parties express their decisive will to actively participate in efforts aimed at achieving an agreement of those forces that make up Chilean socialism. In this regard, they assume the commitment to jointly promote those processes, proposals, and initiatives that are necessary to achieve this objective. This socialist agreement will contain those elements needed to make a socialist proposal to the country. We hope that Chilean socialism will definitely resume its relevant decisionmaking role in national affairs. [end recording]

MAPU and the Christian Left commit themselves to promoting the political agreement of all opposition members toward a common plan aimed at achieving a democratic transition.

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY LEADER REAFFIRMS NATIONAL ACCORD

PY040248 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] The text of the "Political Reflection" prepared by the coordinators of the "National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy" explains the points the authorities have refused to consider. This remark was made by the president of Social Democracy, Rene Abeliuk, as he commented on this new document, which was delivered [as heard] on 31 January. The text prepared by the coordinators of the National Accord explains the position of the 11 signatories regarding the 1980 Constitution, the Communist Party, private property, and the reconciliation efforts. The document asks the government, the Armed Forces, and all civilian sectors to set the attitude of intransigence aside in favor of the nation's pacification. Rene Abeliuk, president of Social Democracy, stressed the principal merit of the document is to end rumors that the National Accord has gone into hibernation.

[Begin Abeliuk recording] The first merit is to put an end to the rumors that the National Accord has ended, has died, has disappeared, which is what some people want. What is obvious is that the National Accord is an instrument offering a peaceful, mutually agreed, and negotiated way out of our predicament. This is its purpose. In addition, it is a document that ensures the stability of the democratic government that will succeed the current dictatorship. Disregarding political reality, General Pinochet personally has rejected the National Accord and its offer for a mutually agreed, negotiated, and peaceful way out. Obviously, the National Accord cannot operate politically at this time because political play calls for negotiation and agreement. This, however, does not mean that the National Accord has disappeared, is dead, or has lost importance and significance.

Quite the contrary, the National Accord still offers the only reasonable way out for this country. The unreasonable way out is that being offered by General Pinochet, who is trying to impose his project -- with his reelection in 1989 and later -- a system of war against Marxism and repression of all those who dissent against authoritarianism. [end recording]

Abeliuk stressed that Chile has chosen the National Accord as an instrument of transition and that it only remains for the Armed Forces to adhere to this worthy initiative.

[Begin Abeliuk recording] The reasons the government has advanced to reject the National Accord are merely pretexts. Because, when the government says that the 1980 Constitution must first be accepted, it is acting like someone who in a suit wants a favorable verdict before entering negotiations. I don't know what will be left to be negotiated once the verdict has been given. But he can use any other pretext to reject the proposal to negotiate the modification of the Constitution. Marxism is another of Pinochet's pretexts. The irrational anti-Marxism that the government preaches obviously will never be accepted by the opposition. We have said in the National Accord that we support a system proscribing all totalitarian forces, all those that once democracy is restored will not work for democracy and will follow other objectives and act in other ways.

But we naturally will not accept this proscription that the government wants to impose on a political force from the beginning. [end recording]

The president of Social Democracy concluded by saying that considering the current political circumstances, explanations became indispensable to drive away the doubts about the views inspiring the signatories of the National Accord.

NEW CENTER-RIGHT OPPOSITION GROUP FORMED

PY041545 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0235 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Santiago, 31 Jan (EFE) -- A new political organization appeared today under the name of "Democratic Accord Front" [Frente Democratico de Concordia -- FEDECO]. It claims that one of its main objectives will be to call for a plebiscite to resolve the 1989 presidential succession issue. The new coalition, created by initiative of the rightist Radical Democratic Party with the participation of eight [as received] other parties and movements, reported today that it will ask the Chilean military government to conduct "an active study of the political constitutional laws." In addition to the Radical Democratic Party and the Radical Civic Union, the following parties participated in the creation of this center-right coalition: the Christian Social Party, the Javiera Carrera Movement, the National Democratic Party, the Democratic Socialist Party, the Arturo Matte Civic Center, and the Social Democratic Workers Movement.

Upon announcing the creation of the new coalition, Radical Democratic Party Secretary Rafael Otero stated that one of its main objectives will be to coordinate the work "to pave the road for a peaceful transition toward a stable and lasting democracy." Another objective announced by the signatories of FEDECO is their desire that the government conduct a thorough study of the statute regarding political parties. Among the first actions of the FEDECO we can list the request submitted to Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia for a meeting. The occasion will be used to present him with the first declaration on the creation of the coalition.

CLUSTER BOMBS SHIPPED TO UNKNOWN DESTINATION

PY032336 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2215 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Santiago, 3 Feb (EFE) -- A shipment of cluster bombs produced by Cardoen Industries, one of whose plants blew up 10 days ago killing 29 persons, departed from a northern Chilean port today for an unknown destination. According to the workers who loaded the shipment, this is the last batch of cluster bombs manufactured at the Cardoen factory in Iquique, 1,800 km north of Santiago, before the explosion that occurred at the factory on 25 January killing 25 [figure as received] employees of the plant. The shipment is being carried by the "Elsebeth Vesta," flying the Danish flag. It departed for the Panama Canal, its final destination unknown. Cardoen Industries became known internationally last year when it was discovered that it was manufacturing cluster bombs that were being purchased by Iraq for use in its war with Iran. Witnesses of today's shipment indicated that the freight was loaded into several orange and yellow containers marked with the code number C-3.

BETANCUR RETURNS FROM MEETING WITH SARNEY

PA310346 Paris AFP in Spanish 0208 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Bogota, 30 Jan (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur returned tonight to Bogota following today's meeting in Manaus with Brazilian President Jose Sarney. The Colombian chief of state expressed his satisfaction with the results of the meeting, during which the two presidents discussed coffee, the Latin American foreign debt, drug trafficking, and the border situation. The mixed commission examined other areas such as mutual economic scientific, and cultural cooperation.

Betancur, who will end his term in office in August, said that he invited President Sarney to visit Colombia before his term concludes. President Betancur also said that in early February 4,000 or 5,000 members of the reserves will be recalled for active duty for 4 or 5 months to guard and fully guarantee the development of the legislative elections to be held in March and the presidential elections to be held in May.

MINISTER SAYS DOLLARS NOT LOANED TO NICARAGUA

PA021459 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Hugo Palacios Mejia today clearly explained the following: Colombia has not loaned dollars to Nicaragua. However, by an agreement signed in 1977, it placed some surplus from commercial transactions in Managua's central bank. There is currently a $20-million balance in favor of Colombia in that account. In addition, he said that it has never loaned any money to Bolivia, and Argentina did not use $50 million from the Banco de la Republica's reserves deposited in banks of that nation. In sum, no credits have been granted to any Latin American countries. However, to obtain certain yields, Banco de la Republica reserves have been deposited in the central banks of certain neighboring countries.

VEGA CONFIRMS FORMATION OF 'AMERICA BATTALION'

PA312239 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Jan 86 p 3

[Article by Celmira Figueroa]

[Text] Barranquilla, 27 Jan -- Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe warned today of the danger of foreign mercenaries in the country in what he called "an international program of subversion."

He confirmed the existence of subversive communiques that reported the forming of the so-called "America Battalion," which allegedly is made up of guerrilla from Peru, Ecuador, and the United States. "It is sad that we should be presently exposed to an international program of subversion," added Vega Uribe, who said that the latest official version on the number of dead among the military and the guerrillas is the same as that of 2 days ago.

"Regrettably, there are violent people who want to continue using arms to seek objectives contrary to the democratic sentiments of the country. The Armed Forces and the police have the constitutional obligation to control and maintain order and tranquillity because, stated Vega Uribe, arms or violence should not be allowed to change the system that all Colombians have chosen democratically."

GUERRILLA GROUP CLAIMS COLOMBIAN INFILTRATION

PA012306 Paris AFP in Spanish 2209 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Quito, 31 Jan (AFP) -- The Ecuadoran subversive group "Alfaro Lives" said in documents sent to AFP in Quito today that it was infiltrated by a Colombian agent who thwarted the kidnapping of a businessman. The documents add that the "Luis Vargas Torres" section of "Alfaro Lives" has been organized and is fighting in that neighboring country in the "America Battalion" along with guerrillas from other Latin American movements.

The group sent AFP a document sent by the "Alfaro Lives" leadership to its members who are in jails and a recording of a clandestine press conference held yesterday with reporters from certain local morning newspapers. However, the papers did not publish the information today.

The document, signed by the top leaders of the organization, headed by Arturo Jarrin and Hamet Vasconez -- for whom the government has offered a reward equivalent to some $50.00 [as received] each -- states that the Alfarist practice of trusting men "made this infiltration possible."

The document adds that because of this, in December, 1985, the kidnapping of the businessman Antonio Granda Garces was prevented. On that occasion, Granda Garces defended himself and wounded one of the kidnappers, for which he was given an official decoration.

According to "Alfaro Lives" the attack was reported ahead of time and "an operation had been prepared" to wait for the kidnappers, for whom it "would have been very easy to kill Mr Granda, but that is not our style. We struggle for life."

The document also states that the killing of Fausto Basantes Borja, deputy commander of the group, in a shootout with the police, "is also the result of the infiltration."

"The same Colombian who killed our 19 April Movement [M-19] brothers (Alberto and Federico) using the attempt to escape law directed the operation to capture Fausto," the document adds.

"Alfaro Lives" is referring here to the two M-19 guerrillas who participated in the kidnapping of the businessman Nahim Isaias. According to the official report, the kidnapping ended with the death of Isaias and his kidnappers and the arrest of several people involved in the case. The two M-19 guerrillas were killed by the police when their companeros tried to rescue them, as they were being transferred to another prison.

The subversive group also stated that "at this time, the Luis Vargas Torres platoon of our organization has joined the America Battalion, which is fighting and rewriting the heroic pages of Bolivarianism in this dark hour of the American continent."

Reports received from Bogota in the past few weeks have said that this battalion is being organized in southeastern Colombia, with guerrillas from Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

Finally, "Alfaro Lives" said that by President Leon Febres Cordero's actions, the country "has been auctioned off to the international banking sector and the U.S. empire," that the political situation "is even gloomier," and that "Ecuadoreans are experiencing a spiralling process of impoverishment and subjugation."

MONETARY BOARD APPROVES NEW EXCHANGE RATE, TARIFF

PA290337 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] During today's session, the Monetary Board unanimously approved [words indistinct] the modification of the exchange system, new prices for agricultural export products, and a new tariff. Regarding the modification of the country's exchange system, economist Alberto Jesus, the new president of the Monetary Board, announced that the exchange rate has been fixed by the Central Bank at 108.50 sucres for buying and 110 sucres for selling. This entails a new currency devaluation.

[Begin recording] [Jesus] In an adequate move, and as a coordinated policy among the various state organizations, several measures have been taken, including a new tariff, new prices for agricultural export products, and a modification of the country's exchange system. May I repeat, the measures taken have been deemed adequate in the country's current economic circumstances. These measures aim basically at strengthening the foreign sector, rationalizing the country's imports and production, strengthening the state's finances, and consolidating the economic recovery process in the country.

I will now ask the Central Bank manager and industry minister to explain more fully the technical aspects of the measures taken.

[Presumably Industry Minister Neira] As has already been mentioned a few moments ago, the Monetary Board today unanimously -- and this is important -- approved a Central Bank recommendation regarding a modification of the exchange rate used by the Central Bank. As you and the people at large have learned, the national government has been taking exchange, credit, monetary, and fiscal measures since 4 September 1984. These measures, which were recommended to and approved by the Monetary Board today, fit the national government's realistic economic policy since 10 August 1984. The purpose of this policy is to aid the recovery of the national economy and keep the competitiveness of the external sector of our economy and a healthy balance of payments.

The people have also learned about the results of this economy. [Words indistinct] we have experienced positive results. Nonoil exports have increased by 17 percent during 1985, the pending increases of payment until 1985 were completely eliminated. In addition to having paid [words indistinct], international monetary reserves were also increased by approximately $25 million and, as we have said more than once, the country's foreign obligations are in order [words indistinct] for many, many years. [end recording]

CHURCH SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PY311712 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 31 Jan 86 p 6

[Text] During a press conference with representatives of international news agencies, Monsignor Jorge Livieres Banks yesterday said that "we are men of hope. We believe that sooner or later the government will participate in the dialogue." The church spokesman explained the scope of the initiative and assessed the national political situation, stating, among other things, that in Paraguay "human rights are being violated and there is no room for dissent." During a meeting yesterday with correspondents from international news agencies, Asuncion Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Livieres Banks said that the Paraguayan Church will stimulate national dialogue despite strong government criticism for having taken up such an initiative. Livieres Banks emphasized that the church is prompting dialogue because it is concerned that in Paraguay human rights are being violated, people are being tortured and harrassed, morality is lacking, and a lack of opportunity for dissent exists.

The church spokesman stated that the dialogue will not be restricted to politicians and that intellectuals, artists, businessmen, and trade union leaders will also be convened in order to achieve a consensus. The bishop said that, even if the Colorado Party refuses to participate, the church will carry on with this initiative, which we believe is indispensable. In addition, "we are men of hope. We believe that sooner or later the government might participate in the dialogue." Livieres Banks stated that the church will not include communists in the call to hold a dialogue because the Paraguayan Constitution itself specifically disqualifies parties advocating class struggle.

Livieres Banks added that, even if this initiative might end in failure, "the church will run the risk and will make an effort because the country deserves it." Livieres Banks also said: "We believe that there are certain undertakings seeking the common good which are necessary, although success cannot be guaranteed. In a way, these undertakings represent an effort. Many times there may be circumstances that may change and permit, if not a complete success, at least the laying of a groundwork, the beginning of something that could be readily materialized in the future."

Asked what he would call the government of President Stroessner, Livieres Banks said: "An authoritarian regime that has clung to certain formats that are no longer justified." The bishop also stated tht "peace does not mean the disappearnce of revolutions in Paraguay. I am talking about a dynamic and creative peace and justice for man." Speaking about the circumstances that led the church to play a mediating role, Livieres Banks said although we have noticed an increasingly unyielding and aggressive position there has been to a certain extent an improvement in the freedom of expression. However, we noticed that this problem is being assessed in different ways.

MASS KILLING OF PEASANTS BY MILITARY REPORTED

PY041640 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0119 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Lima, 3 Feb (TELAM-ANSA) -- Peruvian congressmen today began the first investigation into the alleged slaughter of 3,000 defenseless peasants by military forces in the Cachi community, Victor Fajardo Province, Ayacucho.

The massacre, which was reported today by the daily LA REPUBLICA, has shocked the public and circles close to President Alan Garcia Perez' government.

The killings reportedly occurred in June-July 1985, but the truth was not learned until recently when several survivors gave details of the dramatic event. According to the report, the inhabitants of Cachi and other nearby villages died when Army helicopters bombed the region, which they believed to be a Shining Path meeting place.

Benjamin Madueno, president of the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Commission, said that the government will not permit human rights violations and that all violations will be punished including these that occurred during President Fernando Belaunde Terry's government.

Apparently the killings occurred during the months when the Armed Forces decided to severely suppress the guerrillas in the Andean southeast in an attempt to stop the advance of the Maoist guerrillas.

TERRORISTS BLAMED FOR DOWNTOWN LIMA FIRE

PY041748 Paris AFP in Spanish 1607 GMT 4 Feb 86

[By Daniel Sire]

[Excerpt] Lima, 4 Feb (AFP) -- Maoist Shining Path commando groups and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) urban cells have unleashed a wave of increasingly violent and selective attacks in Peru. A huge fire that started 100 meters from Government Palace seems to be part of this campaign, political sources have said here.

Today's huge fire, which burned out at least four large garment stores in downtown Lima, was apparently caused by incendiary bombs, the Peruvian Civil Guard said. The police said there were no reports of injuries but that an explosive device had been defused in one of the stores.

Fire Department Chief Waldo Olivos said this has been one of the worst fires in the last 10 years. The fire, which started at 0830 GMT, spread 4 hours later when an explosion occurred. The police had to evacuate all residents of neighboring buildings. Nearly 100 fireman fought the flames which at times were 30 meters high.

MILITARY TRIBUNAL TO TRY FORMER MILITARY JUDGE

PY031559 Paris AFP in Spanish 1607 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Feb (AFP) -- Defense Ministry sources have confirmed here that a military tribunal has been created to try Colonel Federico Silva Ledesma, former president of the Military Supreme Court.

The tribunal, which will comprise three generals, will study remarks by Silva Ledesma to the independent weekly BUSQUEDA disclosing that many officers had been brought to trial during his administration.

Silva said he was passed over for promotion because of those trials and noted that some of his decisions were obviously unwelcome.

Silva said: Once we tried a senior officer and nearly all of his subordinate officers for brutally beating a man and then throwing him into a ditch. Thus, he said, the senior officer lost his career and his comrades did not like that.

According to Defense Ministry sources, the tribunal that will try Silva will start its preliminary activities next week.

FOREIGN MINISTER IGLESIAS VISITS ALGERIA

For Algerian reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and his talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Taleb Ibrahimi, see the North Africa section of the 4 February Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT

PA021922 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1543 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Caracas, 2 Feb (EFE) -- Trinidadian-Tobagan Foreign Minister Errol Mahabir today ended an official 3-day visit to Caracas, during which he stated his support for Mexico and Venezuela's initiatives regarding the worldwide oil situation. Mahabir returned to his country this morning after taking leave of his counterpart Simon Alberto Consalvi and other ranking Venezuelan officials.

During his stay in Venezuela Errol Mahabir met with President Jaime Lusinchi, to whom he expressed Trinidadian-Tobagan solidarity in the defense of the oil market. Mahabir stressed that his government welcomes the Mexican-Venezuelan efforts in favor of stabilizing the prices of hydrocarbons.

Regarding an eventual initiative by his country similar to that adopted by Mexico and Venezuela to lower the price of their crude oil, he said that Trinidad-Tobago has very little influence on the international market and, since it is not a member of OPEC, it accepts the prices that others establish.

Mahabir pointed out that his country is studying the possibility of acquiring 40,000 barrels per day of heavy crude for refining at Trinidad Petroleum.

The minister said that transactions regarding this could take place before the end of this month.

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PA312012 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] The investment that will be made by Venezuela and Czechoslovakia through a commercial agreement signed between the representatives of the two countries at the Foreign Trade Institute [ICE] here in Caracas will amount to $26 million.

After 50 years of trade relations, Venezuela and Czechoslovakia decided to sign this agreement to further strengthen these ties. The agreement calls for several types of cooperation in an effort to make the bilateral exchange -- such as signing contracts between firms of the two countries, drafting lists of goods and services that they want to export, and organizing trade fairs and exhibits -- easier.

[Begin ICE President Simon Izaguirre recording] This agreement establishes very specific possibilities for increasing our trade, basically concerning aluminum products, iron ore, and canned fish products; in sum, a large number of products that we will export to that country. In exchange, we will import strawberries, lathes, and machinery to process metals. Therefore, I believe that we are establishing an excellent trade flow, and we are very happy with the event we have held here. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Ladislav Vodrazka, first deputy minister of foreign trade, said that the increase in these relations is a result of the commercial success during 1985.

[Begin recording of unidentified interpreter] The figures in our trade last year show a substantial increase not only in our exports, but in our imports of Venezuelan products. We want to continue this trade in 1986 and reach a greater level of trade. [end recording]

DEFENSE BUDGET, ARMED FORCES ACTIVITIES OUTLINED

PA032247 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 29 Jan 86 p 6

[Text] The modernization of the Army and the Air Force will be one of this year's basic priorities, the National Defense Secretariat [Sedena] has announced, saying that its aims will be to permanently guarantee the nation's security and develop programs with high social content.

During 1986, the National Defense Secretariat will have a budget of 287.2 billion pesos to undertake various actions of great importance to the country.

It will continue to make adequate its command and team organizational structures and to train and update the training of the military personnel in order to increase their effectiveness in dealing with defensive tasks and those devoted to the protection of democratic institutions.

Sedena will also step up the antinarcotics campaigns and the operations to destroy narcotics. It will continue to work on reforestation efforts and conduct health education and literacy camapigns. Regarding the construction of homes and distribution of aid to civilian population in zones and cases of disaster, Sedena also intends to increase its actions in this direction. The actiors to safeguard territorial integrity and the security of Mexicans will also be strengthened through the modernization of the Army and Air Force.

Meanwhile, the Navy Secretariat will have a 87.5 billion peso budget in 1986, during which they will continue the construction of naval bases at Manzanillo, Colima, Lazaro Cardenas, and Michoacan and of four "Olmec" patrol launches, which will increase naval operation capabilities in the medium run.

The Navy Secretariat will also continue the projects to construct berths for medium-sized and ocean-going vessels in Tampico, Tamaulipas, and Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche. This will boost the construction and shipyard industries at low cost to the Mexican Navy and other government agencies.

Meanwhile, this year the Navy's sea patrol activities will cover an extension of 140 square nautical miles.

With this budget, attempts will also be made to modernize the Mexican Navy and support its sea port infrastructure program as well as its educational and oceanography research programs.

OFFICIALS TO REQUEST REDUCED INTEREST PAYMENTS

FL040342 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0240 GMT 4 Feb 86

[By Roberto Gonzalez Perez]

[Excerpt] New York, 3 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico will request from international banks a substantial reduction in interest payments of its foreign debt during a meeting officials will hold tomorrow with a banks' committee that negotiates with the country.

The report has been confirmed this afternoon by officials who will attend the meeting, which will be presided over by Jose Angel Gurria, the Finance Secretariat's foreign credit director, and William Rhodes, Citibank vice president and chairman of committee representing 13 international banks that have dealings with Mexico.

According to the Finance Secretariat's spokesman in New York, the Mexican proposal of reducing the amount paid for its foreign debt interests will be made in a conciliatory atmosphere. Banking sources asserted that the bankers are willing to listen to Mexico's proposals due to the new circumstances of reduced oil prices.

For several days, New York banks have been sensitive to the fact that Mexico will not be able to pay its international financial commitments on time during the rest of 1986 because of the drastic and continuing drop of oil prices in international markets.

OPPOSITION VIEWS OIL PRICE DROP, DEBT MORATORIUM

FL031708 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1905 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- In separate statements, opposition parties have proposed a joint action of debtor countries in the face of lowered oil prices. Jorge Cruikshank Garcia, secretary general of the Mexican Popular Socialist Party (PPS), believes that the drop in price and its impact on the Mexican economy leaves no other alternative but total cancellation of the interest.

Cruikshank Garcia added that Mexico will not be able to grow and make payments on the interest at the same time. He also expressed disagreement with declaring a moratorium on the debt because this would mean postponing or deferring the payments, an action that would further worsen the problem.

Meanwhile, the United Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) has expressed itself in favor of immediately declaring a moratorium.

BRIEFS

PLANE ABANDONED, COCAINE SEIZED -- A Cessna light plane made an emergency landing today in Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosi State. Mexican Army members cordoned off the area. They have reported that 15 packages of cocaine and documents from Colombia were found in the aircraft. The light plane occupants fled the aircraft, whose fuel tanks were empty. [Summary] [Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 3 Feb 86 PA]

REACTION TO DELVALLE ECONOMIC SPEECH NEGATIVE

PA312023 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 86

[Excerpts] The economic plan read by President Eric Arturo Delvalle Wednesday evening over a radio and television network has stirred more negative than positive reactions in the different national sectors.

Most of the businessmen, workers, and other national leaders who expressed their opinion to LA PRENSA granted little credibility to the plan's effectiveness because it lacked clarity and improperly treat the problems concerning labor, social security, industry, agriculture, and the reverted areas.

The vice president of the Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists [SIP], Alfredo Arias, said the document does not offer sufficient incentives for new industries. He noted that many of its ambiguities must be clarified, while it makes little reference to the public sector and the required adjustments to the national economy.

Legislator Jorge Ruben Rosas, of the National Liberal Republican Movement, Molirena, said the president's speech did not map out the adoption of heroic measures and changes in the state's structures needed to halt the decline in national activities.

Referring to the government's capacity to meet the tasks of economic recovery, Rosas concluded that Delvalle's government is guided by the same men who have manipulated the administration for the past 17 years. "They are the principal people responsible for unemployment and the present economic, social, fiscal, financial, and moral plight of the Panamanian state," he noted.

Dr. Mauro Zuniga, secretary general of the Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Institute, Amoacss, said that to understand Delvalle's speech, one must bear in mind three constants: the absolute rule of the lack of values, Panama's marked dependence on the industrialized countries and the subordinate and antinational spirit of those in power, and the use of repression as an opposing instrument.

According to Zuniga, the new letter of intention demanded by the IMF and the World Bank, and "drawn up by the military dictatorship," is merely intended to obtain capital to pay the foreign debt and "to increase military expenditures" to guarantee payment of the debt and consolidate "our dependence and submission to the big international financial centers."

The National Council of Organized Workers (Conato) in a communique to the nation expressed its disagreement with the revision of the labor legislation, intended to dismember the labor unions and eliminate the social equilibrium.

Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, described the speech as "disappointing" because it displayed a "diluted version" of former President Barletta's economic-fiscal plan.

Arias Calderon noted as very serious the omission by Delvalle in his speech of some of the commitments submitted by the official mission sent to Washington. In other words, he said, Delvalle did not reveal the whole truth about what is being negotiated with the international financial organizations.

ABADIA BELIEVES U.S. WILL SUPPORT CONTADORA

PA042059 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 86 p 18

[By Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias has said that he is convinced the United States is paying close attention to the Central American situation. Abadia added that he believes positive results will be obtained regarding the support of the U.S. Government and people for the Contadora Document.

Abadia Arias said he is optimistic about the results of the coming meeting to be held by the four ministers of the Contadora Group with Secretary of State George Shultz and the four ministers from the Support Group on 10 February in Washington.

When asked if he believed that the United States rejected the Caraballeda message for peace, security and democracy in Central America, Abadia Arias stated that the Contadora Group is not waiting for the United States to approve or disapprove anything; furthermore, he added, I believe the United States does not think that way, either.

Abadia Arias' opinion is that what Contadora expects from the United States is adequate support, the same thing it expects from other countries with links and interests in the area in order to truly and effectively implement the Contadora document for peace and cooperation.

Again, when asked whether or not that support would include talks with the Nicaraguan Government, Abadia Arias said that this would be logical, and that these talks should include all area countries involved in the conflict.

Abadia Arias said: "We are going to hold talks with Secretary Shultz to see if it is possible to define the kind of support or the way in which the United States believes that it should provide the support." Abadia justified this by explaining that it is necessary to bear in mind that each nation thinks according to its own genuine interests. Our actions are being taken within that context, the foreign minister concluded.

In the past few days, international observers have expressed negative feelings regarding the Caraballeda document, adding that it is the harbinger of the end of the peace efforts of the Contadora Group.

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUA TO RELEASE SEAMEN SEIZED 21 JANUARY

PA042157 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Paid advertisement by Nicaraguan Embassy]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica informs the Costa Rican people that the Nicaraguan Government, in a gesture of good will, has submitted to the National Assembly a request for pardon for the Costa Rican citizens who have been sentenced to prison terms for committing crimes against Nicaraguan order and state security.

The Nicaraguan Embassy also wishes to inform the people of Costa Rica that on 21 January 1986, the Costa Rican citizens (Avelino), (Francisco), and (Manuel Moreno Avendana) were detained in Nicaraguan territorial waters. The Foreign Affairs Ministry has reported this case to the Costa Rican charge d'affaires in Nicaragua in order to proceed with the release and return of the detainees.

San Jose, 31 January 1986

EL SALVADOR

FMLN ALLEGEDLY SHOOTS DOWN 10-500 HELICOPTER

PA050037 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] FMLN units today shot down a 10-500 helicopter in the northern zone of San Miguel Department. This is the first report on this great victory in the northeastern zone, where our forces are defeating the puppet Army and now have shot down a costly 10-500 helicopter. This action took place in the San Gerardo zone in the northern part of San Miguel Department.

DUARTE LINKS NEW ECONOMIC PLAN TO WAR'S COST

PA041807 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Joel Burgos report from Salvadoran Interior Ministry auditorium]

[Excerpt] This morning, President Jose Napoleon Duarte, accompanied by the members of the economic commission, met with the 14 department governors and the 223 mayors of the municipalities. The president explained the economic measures established by his government. Reporting on the country's situation, Duarte said:

[Begin recording] Dear friends, the war has become more important than the garbage department, public employees, and all the rest. What would you do if, in addition to all of this, you had to pay for the local garrison? This is to explain to you that the war accounts for 800 million colones of our budget and that, without increasing taxes and without other sources of revenue, we have had to remove from the budget all that the ministers previously spent in drilling wells, providing subsidies, etc. What would you have done? I mean, let us not buy any typewriters this year, let us go the whole year without buying any. Let us use less paper.

Listen, cut the paper into little pieces so as not to waste it. With these small savings, we would have tried to have the garbage truck repaired. [Words indistinct] we have taken away all that we could from all the ministers and have transferred it to our most urgent need -- namely, the maintenance of our Armed Forces. This has cost 800 million colones. With the passage of time, however, the situation has become aggravated because our income has been reduced more and more. This has happend to you as well. Municipal and national revenues have also been reduced. In addition, higher prices have forced the government to spend more. A similar thing has happened to you. Prices are higher with each passing day. Iron, sand, cement, and other materials are more expensive for you who plan to build something. This is why the state is suffering a gigantic deficit. These are the country's two great economic problems.

We have the balance of payment deficit. This means that we Salvadorans earn less than we spend. Thus, we earn $900 million and spend $1.8 billion. [end recording]

In conclusion, the president answered journalists' questions.

[Begin recording] [Burgos] First of all, what do you have to say regarding the transfer of Colonel Ochoa Perez?

[Duarte] This is a part of the internal process of the Armed Forces. They present their plans and then I make a decision on the matter. At the time, they told me they wanted Col Ochoa and I said: Sure, all right. I will talk to him. He pledged with me to work within the outline I prepared for him. The high command members are present at the meeting. He told me he was willing to be transferred and I gladly appointed him commander. I accepted the Armed Forces' request. Now I have received another request in which the Armed Forces officers propose Colonel Rubio for the 4th Infantry Brigade because they feel it is time for a rotation. As you have seen, Colonels Ramos, Hernandez, and Benavides have been transferred elsewhere. They meet to discuss these issues every month, and every 3 or 6 months make revisions. They also make revisions at the end of the year, and they make adjustments known as the national plan. This is the program they have selected. And that is all there is to it. Changes are made to make things work according to their plans. This is normal in the Armed Forces. As you have observed, a number of changes have occurred at this time as part of the Armed Forces' structuring process.

[Unidentified reporter] Some circles have interpreted this transfer as a punishment for Ochoa's stance, which was not in accord with the high command and has been made public. For example, when you decreed a truce, he said there was no truce.

[Duarte] I feel we must differentiate between military decisions of the Armed Forces and an individual's personal decisions. I am not worried about this because in a democracy some speak in favor and others disagree. I present a proposal to the country so the country can understand the country's course and destination. This is why I am not worried.

[Burgos] According to the church, some towns have reported that some mayoral offices are not receiving the same revenues as before. Some mayors have said they need more money for their plans. Will the government do something about this?

[Duarte] There is a program for 1,000 works throughout the country. The program has been set and is ready to be initiated. We have just signed credits for 200 million colones for the works to be carried out in the country. [end recording]

SUSPECTS IN 1985 MURDER OF U.S. MARINES ARRESTED

PA031642 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Report issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee -- date not given]

[Text] The National Guard has routed a PRTC [Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers] terrorist cell in San Salvador. Eight terrorists were detained and a large quantity of arms seized. The subversives, belonging to an urban cell of the organization responsible for the Zona Rosa massacre, were engaged in various financial and logistics activities in the capital.

According to statements by Pedro Vladimir Rodriguez Guardado, alias "Mauricio," who was one of those captured, the arms seized were allegedly used in the Zona Rosa murders. He said that "Ulises," who directed the operation, ordered him to have the weapons ready 5 days prior to the attack. "Ulises" collected the weapons 3 days prior to the massacre.

Here are the names of the seven others who were detained:

Alexander Magana Franco, alias "Ruben Martinez," 29, recruited in November 1980 and currently in charge of the PRTC's supplies and personnel.

Yolanda Aida Herrera Moran, alias "Marta Cruz," "Maria Jose," or "Lara Fernandez," 42, recruited in 1980, and currently in charge of the PRTC's finances in the metropolitan area.

Jose Anibal Masferrer Valladares, alias "Federico A. Soto," 42, recruited in 1981 and currently in charge of the PRTC's financial group.

Irma Elisa Ramirez Alvarado alias "Edith Ramos," 30, recruited in 1980 and currently a member of the PRTC's finance commission.

Miguel Angel Molina Jimenez, alias "Mico de Pita," 45, recruited in 1981 and currently in charge of medical supplies and document transactions for the PRTC.

Rosa Elena Vasquez Perez de Hernandez, 42, recruited in 1981, PRTC collaborator and courier.

Gloria Elizabeth Rodriguez de Molina, alias "Glorita," 30, recruited in 1981, collaborator in various PRTC activities.

Pedro Vladimir RODRIGUEZ Guardado, alias "Mauricio," 16, recruited in April 1984, and responsible for cover for weapons and combatants.

This is the armament seized: 3 AR-15 rifles, a .45 caliber machine pistol, a .45 Colt pistol, a 9-mm Berretta pistol, a .25 caliber Astra pistol, a .22 caliber Star pistol, a.30 caliber carbine, a .273 caliber carbine, 4 12-gauge shotguns, an M79 grenade launcher, an RPG-2 grenade launcher, 7 grenade firing pins, 200 RPG-2 trigger actuators, 8 RPG-2 grenades, 7 Russian-made fragmentation grenades, an offensive 74 [not further identified] hand grenade, 10 boxes of fuses for explosives, 65 TNT blocks, a large quantity of ammunition, two Claymore mines, 158 emblems of the PRTC's Luis Adalberto Diaz detachment, and a 1598 TP radio transmitter.

The PRTC cell and the armament were discovered in San Salvador in house No 44 of the main street of the Gallegos No 2 neighborhood in Lourdes borough, and in a house on Jupiter street in Ciudad Satelite, also in San Salvador. There was also a drugstore that supplied medicine to the guerrillas, where foreign documents, such as passports, were also found, as well as a Radio Venceremos bulletin. National Guard Director Colonel Aristides Montes has said that this is a hard blow inflicted on the terrorist groups that operate in the urban zones and also on the PRTC's logistical and financial organization. Those captured have been turned over to the proper authorities.

Peace is our objective.

AIR FORCE ALLEGEDLY BOMBS DENSELY POPULATED AREA

PA031402 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Reports from San Martin municipality outside San Salvador indicate that the genocidal Air Force has staged a massive machinegun, rocket, and bombing attack against that area. The civilian population has fled. Initial reports say that the attack was directed against the communities of San Jose Segundo, Las Lojas, Potrerillo, Los Planes, and other cantons in San Martin jurisdiction. All Salvadorans know that San Martin is a densely populated area with more than 200 inhabitants per square kilometer. This is a new action designed to rid that central area of its population.

Attention, attention. Duarte's Air Force has conducted more desperate air raids against the civilian population. In addition to the report we recevied from San Martin, Radio Venceremos now reports that the Air Force attacked civilian communities in Morazan Department on 1 February. The report indicates that on 1 February A-37 Air Force planes, helicopter gunships, and other aircraft bombed the area of Jocoaitique for 3 consecutive hours. This is a civilian area. The indiscriminate bombing against the civilian population was also directed against the area of Joateca, in Morazan [as heard] Department.

GUATEMALA

NEW GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR NEPOTISM, INACTION

PA040341 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] On 1 February Guatemalans began their second month of the year while the economic crisis that affects every family widens and becomes more acute, and the country's future still has not cleared up.

Two weeks after the new Christian Democratic government was installed, Guatemalans still have not seen any changes in the handling of the nation's affairs, except for the new faces in the most important positions. We admit, however, that officials more able than those who rule during the past 10 years now govern the country. Taking into consideration the serious crisis confronting Guatemala, however, this does not seem to be enough and, 2 weeks after they assumed office, the new leaders also show signs that they don't know what to do and even that they cannot form the government team. Perhaps because of this, the main Christian Democratic leaders have appointed their parents, brothers, nephews, uncles, friends, and fellow party members to the highest positions in the public administration.

Meanwhile, Guatemalans must face more and more needs with fewer and fewer true resources because of the merciless price hike brought about by the fast devaluation of the Guatemalan currency. It appears that the government's bankruptcy, which began about 6 years ago and that has been aggravated since then with highs and lows, will continue this year. The foreign financing, so much talked about during the electoral campaign, has not crystallized as the Guatemalans had hoped. Of the three most important countries said to give us economic aid, the FRG reportedly has announced its inability to assist us this year. Italy constitutes a mystery, since two versions have circulated regarding its aid to us. The first indicates that the 300 million enthusiastically mentioned to the Guatemalan press was not really dollars but liras. As a result, the amount to be received would be considerably reduced. The second version says that the $300 million would be distributed throughout Latin America this year.

Finally, the United States, whose fiscal year began in October 1985, would deliver to Guatemala a maximum of $76.9 million at best, that is to say, if all the demands are met. This amount includes a $10 million loan announced for our country 2 days ago and earmarked for the purchase of military equipment. This loan will be complemented by a nonreimbursable allocation of $300,000 for military training.

Consequently, Guatemala's main source of revenues will have to continue to be the people's contribution through legal taxes, those provided by the legislation in force, the infamous taxes, and those that appear and impoverish the people through the issuance of currency with no other support than the ability to print bills. This year, our country's government could set a nefarious record. The government budget deficit threatens to be greater than the fantastic deficit of 1981. The threat is posed by large public expenses, the increase in bureaucracy,and reduced tax revenues as a result of the country's economic backwardness.

Because of this, the government should establish a new set of taxes this February or, at any rate, prior to the government's first 100 days in the national palace.

HONDURAS

COMMENTARY ON LOPEZ REYES' RESIGNATION, MILITARY

PA032046 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Station commentary: "National Anxiety"]

[Text] The nation again experienced crucial moments of anxiety when, at the instruction of the Armed Forces, the airwaves were filled with the alarming martial music that has traditionally portended coups d'etat. Fortunately, there has only been a change in the Armed Forces leadership. Walter Lopez Reyes has been replaced by a new commander who will soon be elected by the National Congress.

In any civilized country, a change in the military command is routine and normal. It should not and does not provoke either alarm or concern among citizens. Changes are a normal occurrence in any institution. Routine procedures exist so that conjectures will not arise.

But General Walter Lopez' departure has been surrounded by two aspects that have caused expectation.

One aspect enabled the people to learn -- to a great extent -- that there were reasons for his resignation, even though he is an officer with broad popular support. Another aspect is that, unfortunately for the country, the military's internal situation is not one of unity. We say unfortunately because the military is important not only to the defense of the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty, but also to the safeguarding of the country's domestic order. With Gen Lopez as commander, the military had been setting a very good example, to the extent that today we can say that the Armed Forces have fulfilled their constitutional duty as guarantors of domestic order. Most of the Honduran people have a good impression of the military. To a great extent, this is due to the leadership of Gen Lopez Reyes.

Nevertheless, there are some things in institutions that follow an inevitable course. In the Armed Forces, the leadership changes are decided by their highest body, the Superior Council. The decisions of that body cannot be contested by the rest of the nation. In truth, one would have to be a member of that high military body to judge its decisions at the moment when it decides to force the resignation of one commander and appoint his replacement. The civilians, who most of the time do not understand and have no knowledge of military behavior, worry when these unusual changes in the Army take place, and the whole country becomes uneasy. The news media, which tries to get to the bottom of the internal conflicts that arise within the Armed Forces, usually knows as little about the situation as almost everyone else, even though the natural thing should be that the Honduran population should know much more about their Armed Forces because they are part of the nation and therefore of the Honduran people.

On this occasion, the replacement of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces has caused anxiety among the people because of the circumstances in which it has taken place. Only 5 days have passed since the country experienced a legitimate transfer of power and suddenly it has suffered this shake-up, which means the departure of the man who played a fundamental role in that civic transfer of power. We know that the entire military structure played an important role in supporting the institutional process. Therefore, we are not worried now that the militarymen have decided to change their highest leader. We do not think that this change in the military will have the least effect on the development of the institutional process. That is how it should be. Each sector of the country should decide its actions without affecting the rest of the nation.

Nevertheless, part of our concern is based on the fact that it is becoming increasingly common for commanders of the Armed Forces to be forced out before their constitutional term has expired. In this last period, the Armed Forces have had three commanders. This is not good for the institutional process. It is not good that the best organized institution, the Armed Forces, frequently resorts to removing its commander, especially when there are not sufficiently strong reasons for such a step.

We have said that civilians should not be directly involved in military affairs except to be concerned that the Army is on the right path because the security of the state depends on the military. The Armed Forces, especially their highest officers, should always maintain honorable conduct.

The military institution began to deteriorate, not through the fault of the civilians but due to many of its commanders' desires to participate in politics. We believe that General Policarpo Paz Garcia is the one responsible for making the Army return to the garrisons to become united and recover from the wounds it suffered with its extensive participation in politics.

In this sense, Gen Walter Lopez Reyes followed the same policy adopted by Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia. We must be grateful to them for responding to the citizens' desire to have the Army fulfill its true constitutional duty.

It must also be acknowledged that both Gen Paz Garcia and Gen Lopez Reyes were partly responsible for improving the Army's image. We are especially concerned that the new military leaders understand the national reality as Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia and Gen Walter Lopez Reyes did. We hope that the new Honduran Army leaders' conduct towards the rest of the nation will be based on the understanding that the Army as an institution must always be at the service of the nation, the people, and the national interests.

OBANDO Y BRAVO ASSERTS PERSECUTION OF CHURCH

PA032119 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1818 GMT 3 Feb 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said here today: "I am not a politician, I am not struggling against the Sandinist revolution, and I am not allied with the counterrevolutionaries." He explained that during his trip to Washington, "the only thing I did was talk about certain actions and events that have taken place in my country and which are true, because as a pastor and disseminator of the Gospel I cannot hide or distort anything."

Obando y Bravo noted that he visited several international organizations to raise the charges, "but this was not in any way in favor of any given group, as my only favoritism is the one I feel for the Catholic people of Nicaragua and the holy mother church." "I am not related to any of the rebel groups. I spread the good news as a pastor and lead the population and the church to calm waters. My greatest wish is that all the problems in my homeland will be resolved through civilized means until we reach a stable peace." I regret that "many times one's wishes do not come true, but that is part of life, and there is no reason to try to establish different situations by force."

"I am not struggling against the Sandinist revolution as a pastor or as a man; I struggle against sin," Msgr Obando y Bravo said. "We struggle also against injustice and denounce actions against the common good, because the church must give a voice to those who have none," Obando y Bravo asserted.

He said that he would like the Nicaraguan Government "to head toward a search for the good of the majority and peace -- a peace based on truth, love, justice, and freedom." He explained that "if peace is not based on the pillars of love, freedom, and justice, it cannot be called peace."

"I charged that our social promotion offices and our printing press were raided and that Radio Catolica was closed because that is what happened. This makes us a church that is being persecuted for no good reason." The Nicaraguan cardinal noted that the accusations levelled by the Nicaraguan Government at the church "are not truthful, are groundless, and have a political backdrop which is of no concern of ours." He also said that "we are prepared to confront slander with the truth and to report actions against the church."

Obando y Bravo said: "I will return to Nicaragua with the conviction that we must continue our evangelizing work, denounce the persecution against the Church, and struggle for truth to prevail above everything else."

The Nicaraguan cardinal arrived in Honduras to celebrate a mass at the basilica of Jutiapa, 8 km east of Tegucigalpa, on the day of the Virgin of Suyapa, Lady of Honduras and the Armed Forces.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA SPEECH AT 'FACE THE PEOPLE' MEETING

PA011900 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0035 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the conclusion of a "Face the People" meeting held "in Managua" -- live]

[Text] We are interested in holding this exchange, this dialogue with the salaried city rural workers. As you may have noticed, for several months now we have been giving special emphasis to our contacts, our meetings, our dialogues with the peasants. Week after week we have been meeting with the peasants from various parts of our country, from various regions, who are justly demanding land to till.

Of course, we have had the opportunity to talk with the peasants about many problems during these meetings. We have talked about their problems, such as land problems, supply problems, economic problems, political problems, and the war problem. As we began 1986, we continued our dialogues with the peasants, but we considered that it was also necessary and opportune to have meetings with the salaried workers. As we become familiar with the many problems affecting the Nicaraguan workers, we feel we can improve the revolutionary government's capabilities for guidance and decision. That is why all the companero ministers of the revolutionary cabinet are here tonight.

These meetings -- these "Face the People" programs -- allow the ministers to become aware for the first time of many problems, because the ministers are studying very general problems and sometimes they have difficulties with specific problems. [Words indistinct] because there was a lack of communications. Thus, these "Face the People" programs are very important. We meet with the peasants and we meet with the salaried workers, who are the pillars of the Nicaraguan revolution.

The FSLN has been clearly supporting strengthening the unity of the peasants and workers. The FSLN National Directorate has been ratifying this line and the revolutionary government has been enforcing it. When we distribute land titles and rifles to the peasants so they can defend these lands, we are strengthening the defense capabilities of the revolution, we are strengthening the defense capabilities of the Nicaraguan workers. The peasants are on the front lines of combat, in the areas where the counterrevolutionaries are moving about, and they have to confront, reject, and defeat the enemy in the front lines of combat. Thus we attach importance to the Nicaraguan peasants, who have a long record of struggle and combat.

We cannot deny that we have thousands of workers mobilized who have fought in various cities of the country. We had to give arms to the peasants so they can defend their interests, so they can defend the common interests of the workers and peasants. We met with you in about September, during the fourth assembly of the workers [words indistinct]. We recall that during that meeting we emphasized that increasing wages would not solve the economic problems of Nicaragua. You presented some proposals, and more than demanding wage increases, you proposed a readjustment of wages. However, we can assert that during that meeting we all clearly understood that we could not cope with the problems by changing salaries. We even said that we could not even think of solving problems if we do not have the formula for solving them. We must find a formula for confronting the problems. You recall that we regarded the issue of salaries as an instrument that we had to readjust, but that it was not the main instrument for confronting the problems.

During that meeting we pointed out other problems that had to be confronted. We pointed out the problems of supply, of distribution of products for the city and rural workers. First, we had to guarantee that staples were sent to the city and rural workers, and later that these products had a just and controlled price. Then the various speakers reiterated that there was a need to control prices, a need for creating mechanisms of effective distribution, and you exerted a strong pressure on the Domestic Trade Ministry [Micoin]. Naturally, it is the duty of Micoin to confront this problem although this is a problem that concerns us all. We must all confront this problem by supporting Micoin, which is the organization in charge of this aspect.

There was much concern, and it was justified. The workers were very concerned. Why? Because Micoin is facing very difficult problems. It is creating mechanisms, making efforts to (?control) distribution and regulating prices of staples.

By the end of the year, on 31 December, we announced a salary readjustment, effective 1 January. This readjustment is in line with the policy that I defended at the September assembly. In other words, the salary readjustment was approved on 31 December and became effective 1 January.

This salary readjustment is not really increasing the workers' wages. In other words, in 1984 the worker had a purchasing power that had deteriorated. Wages continued to deteriorate in 1984. Inflation was moving at an uncontrollable rate. We have a policy of subsidies that was being promoted from the beginning of the revolution in order to protect the workers' wages, to control the prices of staples. However, what happened then? The military confrontation issue, the war, the economic situation, all of this affected prices that continued rising. The speculators and the unscrupulous merchants were the ones who benefited from this situation.

Thus, the worker's wages were deteriorating. He could not buy the same with the same wages. He purchased less because the workers' wages deteriorated in 1984. In 1985 we decided to change the policy we had been upholding since 1979 because the workers' wages did not only deteriorate in 1984. The situation had been worsening since 1979, 1983, 1984. Then we adopted a number of measures early in 1985, when we combined price increases of some products as we eliminated the subsidies. In other words, we were giving those products their real prices, according to production costs. We also readjusted the workers' wages, trying to adjust them to the new prices. This is a readjustment, because if it were a salary increase, then the worker would be able to purchase more. We did not do that. We strive so that the worker will continue to be able to purchase staples and be able to pay for the minimum service for living. Thus, those measures -- readjustments of wages and prices -- controlled the speculators, prices, supplies, and so forth. All of this happened, but we still had much to do.

When the September assembly was held, we announced our conclusions, as well as the resolutions of the Sandinist Assembly and of the National Directorate that sought to protect the real wages of the workers. It aimed to benefit the peasants, their lands, promote the agrarian reform. Naturally, this included the military defense of the revolution. The workers joined the Patriotic Military Service, the reserve battalions, the reserve units, and so forth. When we enforced these measures early in 1985, we had not yet effectively controlled the mechanisms of economy, the merchants, prices, distribution. There were hundreds of controls that we had not coordinated. There were many problems.

Thus, there was room for speculation. In spite of the efforts that were being made to readjust the workers' wages, there were problems.

Even though there were official orders, the speculators were able to take advantage of them. They increased their prices over the official prices. This concerned the workers. When we met at the Assembly, they told us they were concerned over this situation. They said we were not controlling the measures; the measures were not reaching their goals. Also, our enemies who identified themselves with the U.S. aggressive policies wanted to destroy our revolution. Then, there are also other enemies who can deliver a revolutionary speech, a radical speech, but deep inside they agree with the stand of our imperialist enemies.

They started to criticize the economic policies of the revolution. It was not unusual for the local newspaper that represents the interests of exploitation and imperialism here to publish statements of some individuals who call themselves leaders and representatives of the Nicaraguan workers. Why did this paper emphasize the statements of these individuals? Naturally, because these individuals were playing the imperialist police game in order to confuse the workers. The international news agencies also emphasized the statements by these individuals. They (?also used) the statements made by COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] and the rightist parties that sought to blame the FSLN's policy of principles for the economic crisis in Nicaragua.

We are adopting a number of measures this year, 1986. The first measure is the salary readjustment effective 1 January. We have been monitoring the workers' reactions to the measures. What was that reaction? They did not applaud the salary readjustment measure. The workers received the measure with a little distrust because the workers know that this measure alone will not solve the problem, but that the problem is solved by producing, controlling prices, distributing the products. Thus, the workers' reaction was not the most favorable and that was logical. In addition, the Nicaraguan workers are becoming more knowledgeable, are becoming economic experts as well as international policy experts. They felt that if there were salary readjustments this meant that prices would increase. They realized this was the result of either the government authorizing them, or the speculators taking advantage of the situation. Naturally, as soon as the announcement had been made, the speculators established new prices. This was evident in the interviews with workers printed in newspapers or aired over radio and television. They were concerned, even bothered about the measure, because the measure was being used by the speculators to take advantage of the workers.

However, I can assure you that right now Micoin has a much better answer for all this, and so do the Sandinist police, the mass organizations, and the workers who are becoming more directly involved in the struggle against speculators. We have managed to put a halt to the speculators' attempts to take advantage of the salary readjustments so that they could benefit from them. That is what the speculators were doing with the anarchic increases in prices. They were practically robbing the workers, and it would then be the speculators who received the benefits from the salary readjustment approved for the workers.

Why did we adopt all these measures? We did this in order to confront the crisis, to control the crisis. This crisis cannot be controlled just like that. Why is it not in our hands to eliminate this crisis? Because there are outside factors that burden the Nicaraguan economy. You are well aware of these factors. What is the main outside factor affecting us? Which one? [audience shouts: imperialist aggression] Aggression, yes, that is the main factor burdening our crisis. Then, there are other problems, such as market and product prices. For example, this year coffee prices are good. But how about the other products?

How about those tractors that our companeros are asking for, and the tires our companeros need, and the spare parts our companeros are asking for, and the hospital equipment another companero is asking for? Have those prices dropped? No, they have increased, they have doubled, tripled. [words indistinct] of some of our exports. We also have that problem.

Then, we have the problem of the foreign debt that is burdening our economy. Thus, the measures have been adopted to cope with the crisis, not to solve the crisis, so that the crisis will not ruin us. We know we must control the crisis and overcome it. We must give our products their true value. Many products have been devalued, [words indistinct]. But there is a distortion, a deformation [words indistinct]. At a given moment, the peasant who produced corn and beans, for example, thought it was better for him not to produce corn and beans and complain to Micoin, who sold his corn and beans. Why? Because the price he was receiving for his products was very low, or perhaps it was not profitable for him to produce corn and beans.

Thus, we must see what the real production costs are, what it costs in this country to produce a consumer article. We must also make efforts to encourage producers. When we refer to producers, we are referring to the great state production and private production, the small and medium-sized farms, the thousands of peasants who produce staples and produce for export. We must encourage them. However, we must also encourage the workers, who are a basic force of production.

We have said that in the face of the economic crisis, we will never allow ourselves to be led into what is called the philosophy of exploitation, the philosophy of the IMF. In other countries, the economic problems are being confronted at the expense of the workers. They throw the workers out in the street. These are the solutions proposed by the IMF. We then hear about the complaints, the (?reserve services) do not develop, the educational and health programs are eliminated, there are no programs for the children. Only a few enterprises are left operating, if these are profitable, and at any cost. If enterprises have to shut down, they are shut down; and if 1 million workers have to be dismissed, then they are dismissed. There are some governments that do this.

However, they are hurting their own people. They are not finding solutions to their economic problems. They are making their domestic problems even worse with such measures. But let each government and each people do as they see fit; they are free to face their problems in their own ways. We say this with all due authority, because Nicaragua is a government and people who are constantly receiving advice from everyone on how we should handle our internal, political, economic, and social development. Everyone comes here to give Nicaragua advice and tell us how we should act. Not really everyone in the world, but a good part of the world comes here to try to tell us what we should do. We are receptive, we listen. But naturally, when some come to advise us on what we should do in order not to upset the United States, then we reject this advice, which is not the best advice.

Just as they constantly give us advice -- and so many give their opinions on Nicaraguan policy -- we also have a right to give our opinion on their behavior. Many governments fall, victims of U.S. blackmail policy. They fall, victims of the IMF, and they sacrifice the workers. That is certainly not a formula for Nicaragua to follow.

When we decided to adopt the measures [mentioned earlier], we were looking for ways to increase production, which is basic. Even if many measures are adopted, the production is not increased; then there are no results. [sentence as heard]

The measures must bring about an increase in production. By increasing production and developing the economy, we will have the instruments in order to fully control the crisis, completely eliminate the crisis. Thus, these measures seek to encourage the producer and protect the worker. These are very complex measures to enforce when there is not an iron fist control, an absolute control of some marketing mechanisms. It is (?difficult to control them) and this leads to speculation.

Now, the measures we have adopted this year and which I mentioned earlier, that is, wage readjustments, [25 second break in transmission] and the registration of consumers. These two laws give workers an active participation, and they will help us guarantee better distribution of staples. They will also help us guarantee control over prices. Also, some prices will have to be revised. We have talked about the beef problem. Beef is controlled not only by the (?police), but also by (?prices), that is, by combining several actions.

At noon today, we also announced a new exchange rate of 70 [cordobas] to 1 [dollar], an official exchange rate for imports, exports, and various credit and banking operations. We are seeking to face the financial, economic situation of the country. We cannot live in a fictitious situation. We must live in reality. Reality tells us that our currency cannot stay at the rate of 28 to 1 anymore, and that we must adopt the 70 to 1 exchange, so then we do it. We agree on the 70 to 1.

Prices will have to be readjusted. Speculators should not raise prices because we are going to fight them. We will give them some time to examine the effects of the salary readjustment, of the various measures, such as the exchange rate, in order to make a price readjustment, but only for some products, not all of them. The exchange rate affects some export products, and a few domestic consumption items. That is going to be regulated by Micoin. Merchants will not be able to fix whatever price they see fit for some products. No one is authorized to increase prices at this moment. We have a price commission that is going to study carefully how these measures develop, and then announce what is a more or less fair price for certain products.

A list of the new prices will be issued. Merchants will have to abide by that list. Therefore, we cannot tolerate, as a result of these measures, unscrupulous merchants raising prices tomorrow morning, as they did on the day following our announcement of the 1 January wage readjustment. They must respect the price list. We are clearly stating that for the time being there are no price hikes. You must wait for the price list to be issued.

We have also been announcing other measures. For example, we took the 1986 budget and carefully watched our centavos so that the difference between our expenses and our income would not be so large, so that the so-called fiscal deficit would not be so large. In spite of the great efforts, the fiscal deficit is large. We have an estimated deficit of approximately 26 billion [currency not specified], without taking into consideration these measures. We hope to solve this deficit with these measures.

This means we have made an extraordinary effort, and for what? We have done this in order to invest in expenses that will allow us to maintain the country's capacity in all aspects. We are not making plans on the growth of our services, or on a great growth of our economy, even though when we discussed the budget, we decided that we had to guarantee the budget for the productive, agricultural, and industrial sectors. We had to guarantee that.

The same holds for investments in the productive sector. This morning we were discussing this at the planning department.

We had to increase the budget a little bit because we were cutting funds from the basic grains contingency plan. This is an important plan that concerns the nourishment of the Nicaraguan people. Thus, this is a plan that must be given support and must be included in the budget.

We would like to build schools everywhere, but there is a very great difference between what we receive and what we spend. Thus, we must control ourselves, and in doing this, we guarantee funds for production and cut some funds from services -- health, and education -- in certain areas. What conclusions did we reach? Well, we are going to build a few more schools this year. We are going to build a few more health centers this year. We are going to build them in the rural areas. Why? Because in the city we have a lot of people who are not producing. There are many persons not involved in productive tasks in Managua.

We are interested in seeing these Managua people go to the rural areas to become involved in productive tasks. He who wants to have water should go to the rural areas; if he wants to have electricity, he should go to the countryside; if he wants to have housing, he can have it in the countryside.

The contingency plan of basic grains was approved. We have approved the productive projects that are involved in the production of food, in the production of export goods, in the industrial area for the basic needs of the country. The availability of foreign currency needed for these sectors will also be guaranteed. Actually, we have available a very limited amount of foreign currency. Our demand for currency is much higher than the amount we have available.

All these measures are connected with our policies for austerity, efficiency, and discipline at work. Unless expressed in the form of greater productivity, these measures would be failing. We are indeed confident and certain that these measures will result in greater productivity and efficiency. In order to achieve productivity and efficiency, we need discipline; thus the role to be played by the workers' leaders must be to bolster the workers' discipline. An hour lost multiplied by thousands of workers represents millions in losses for the country. The person working at a work center or industry, especially in the cities, must not forget that while he is effectively producing, others are fighting and risking their lives in the war zones. He who is undisciplined must be reprehended because he is not behaving like a worker, he is not defending the workers' interests, but on the contrary, is playing along with the oligarchs, the exploiters, and imperialism. In fact, due to his attitude, he becomes a counterrevolutionary; his attitude is counterrevolutionary even if he delivers a revolutionary speech, even if he delivers the most radical speech that can be delivered in this country. If he is not producing, if he is not working, if he is not doing his job, he is behaving like a counterrevolutionary.

That is where the U.S. Government strategists have placed their hopes. They have placed all their hopes in the economic crisis to totally crush the Nicaraguan people; in the FSLN, the government, and workers not being able to control the economic crisis; on the economic crisis dragging on to create a state of unrest among the workers, people and peasants against the revolution and for this to lead to a situation of counterrevolution, rebellion, and insurrection, so that the mercenaries and the U.S. interventionist troops can invade our cities.

Through all the studies that are being conducted by President Reagan's advisers -- his military, economic, and political advisers -- they see clearly that they cannot defeat the revolutionary power with mercenary forces. That has been proven here for a long time. With each passing day, with each day that the people's power is strengthened, we have a more powerful fist to hit and crush those counterrevolutionaries.

So they know that with mercenary forces they cannot destroy the people's power. However, they say: The mercenary forces must be maintained. Why? Because the Nicaraguan economy is being destroyed, because the war costs this country, because there is an international economic crisis, because there is U.S. pressure on certain governments and on multilateral organizations so they will not help Nicaragua. So they say: If military pressure is maintained and the economic crisis is intensified, then there will be conditions for the counterrevolution in Nicaragua, because then the workers will not support the revolution or the Sandinist Front, nor will the peasants or the people support the revolution or the Sandinist Front. Then conditions will be such that the Yankee troops can arrive in Managua and can be received amid applause by the Nicaraguan workers.

That is what they think, those who analyze the situation. Naturally, what they are thinking is completely absurd because even if there were an economic disaster, this is a revolutionary people, and they will never set themselves against each other. President Reagan's analysts are wrong about this, as they do not realize that a revolution has taken place here, and when there is a revolution it is because the people have waged it and even if they provoke the biggest economic catastrophe, that will not change the people's mentality as revolutionaries. The people have gradually learned to live each day among sacrifices and difficulties.

The U.S. Government is trying to destroy our people. It is making efforts to get more money to maintain the aggression against Nicaragua. It is going to ask for $130 million to continue the aggression against Nicaragua, so that the mercenary forces can continue killing peasants and carry out terrorist activities in Nicaragua. Well, that will be on the consciences of the U.S. leaders and Congress. They can give $130 million in military aid to those mercenary forces, they can give $500 million in military aid to those mercenary forces, they can give $1 billion to those mercenary forces, but do you think that those mercenary forces could destroy this revolution even with that military aid? [cries of "They will not pass!" "Free fatherland or death!" and other slogans] Do you think that if the Yankee troops themselves intervened in Nicaragua, they could destroy this revolution or make it surrender? [cries of "They will not pass!" and other slogans]

President Reagan and those advising him are completely wrong when they think that by giving more money to the contras, they will be able to destroy the revolution. They are completely mistaken. With that, they will simply create more sacrifices for the Nicaraguan people, more pain, but they will also elicit more indignation, more willingness to fight, more determination to win and defeat them. [applause, slogans]

We have spent several hours here this afternoon listening to the workers' demands. The workers want tractors, machinery, and equipment for the agroindustry or for the factories in the cities. The Nicaraguan people want to work, they want peace. We are intent on defending, even with our weapons, our right to peace, and this is how our combatants are defending it in the front lines of combat.

Then there is the U.S. President, making a hysterical campaign against Nicaragua and meeting with several of those to whom he pays salaries, the traitors who pose as political leaders of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force]. Among them was Mr Arturo Cruz to whom we gave the opportunity [boos] to return to his country, as he had lived in the United States for years and he no longer remembered Nicaragua. We gave him the opportunity and he rejected it, and there he is, back in the United States. Mr Cruz is a CIA employee, he receives his wages from the CIA. That other gentleman, who was a Coca Cola manager, Mr Adolfo Calero, was also there. He also gets wages from the CIA. [boos] Mr Alfonso Robelo was also there.

[Boos] catcalls] Mr Arturo, Mr Alfonso, and Mr Adolfo -- they call them the triple A -- reportedly enjoy the sympathy of Nicaraguan workers; [boos, catcalls] they have the Nicaraguan workers and peasants' support. [boos] That is what they have been repeating in the U.S. Congress, that they have the support of Nicaraguan workers, peasants, everyone. This is what they have been repeating to U.S. congressmen, [a shout, laughter] that you support them. [boos, slogans]

He [President Reagan] has met with these people to continue his campaign so that the U.S. Congress will approve $130 million for him. Who knows how much money he will request, but at this point there is talk of $130 million.

I mention (?this) because today there have been reports about Haiti. There has been talk about Haiti for several days now. But, naturally, it is not until now that the United States, the U.S. Government, has apparently begun to realize that Haiti exists. We know about the heroic Haitian people's history. They have been oppressed and exploited by a criminal pro-Yankee dictatorship, a criminal dictatorship that has been supported by the Yankees, the Duvalier dictatorship.

I mentioned the meeting between those men and Secretary Shultz in the United States, and one of those at the meeting was Mr Robelo. With Somoza he visited Haiti, where he established a very good friendship with the Duvalier family and did business with them, the blood business, that scandal involving [word indistinct], which was denounced by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and later led to his assassination. That was a business deal that Somoza, a godchild of the Yankees, and Robelo, a capitalist godchild of the Yankees, went to make with Duvalier, a criminal and exploiter, who was also a godchild of the Yankees. The three Yankee godchildren engaged in that criminal business deal. And when we say Yankee godchildren, we wish to make clear that we mean godchildren of the aggressive, imperialist, and undemocratic policy defended by U.S. Governments like that of Reagan and by many U.S. governments. In fact, most of them have been defending the type of policy that calls for supporting brutal governments like the one in Haiti.

But the Haitian people have been there, rebelling, protesting, suffering, and they are fighting, they are taking to the streets to fight that criminal regime. However, it was not until today that the United States realized that Haiti exists. Trying as usual to take advantage of this situation in a spectacular way, Mr Speakes, a Reagan secretary, [title as heard] announced this morning while flying in a plane with Reagan that Duvalier had already been overthrown. So as to appear to be interested in Duvalier's departure, they now seem to be looking at reality and to be sending Duvalier to hell. But it was not so. Duvalier is still in place and the people are confronting him. What Mr Speakes said in the morning was not true.

We must mention, however, that throughout our entire struggle, while fighting Somoza, we felt we were fighting Duvalier. While fighting exploitation here in Nicaragua, we felt we were fighting exploitation in Haiti. While fighting the imperialist policy in Nicaragua, we felt we were also fighting the imperialist policy in Haiti. We feel confident and certain that at some point the Haitian people will rid themselves of that dictatorship, just as the Nicaraguan people rid themselves of the Somozist dictatorship. That will hurt the Yankees, of course, it will hurt Yankees like Reagan, who think like Reagan, who prefer to be friends with the Duvaliers rather than with the Haitian people, and who preferred to be friends with Somoza rather than with the Nicaraguan people, because they were on good terms with Nicaragua when Somoza was in Nicaragua. But now that the people own Nicaragua, now that the people own their thoughts, now that the people own the right to express themselves and speak in Nicaragua, they are no longer Nicaragua's friends. Why?

Because, naturally, Nicaragua silenced Somoza and sent him to hell. We also rejected the U.S. policy that sought to subject us.

Under these circumstances, marked always by confrontation with the aggressive U.S. policy, we have met this afternoon until almost 2000 to speak a little about our economic problems. We are waging the military defense battle very effectively. The economic battle is even more complex. The military defense battle is harsh and violent because it has cost lives. The economic battle is complex, difficult and also has a very high cost for the people; it imposes serious limitations on the people. Maintaining the military battle also entails a high price in terms of both material and human resources. If there were no war, we would have many material resources here. Many of the trucks that the companeros are demanding are not to be used for work or in the factories carrying out products because they have to take combatants to the war fronts. Thousands of combatants who are at the war fronts, who are needed in the productive centers, would be here if there were no war. The military battle, therefore, is connected with the economy and we re waging the military battle effectively. The economic battle is complex, so it necessitates greater efforts on our part.

We will continue this dialogue with you in the next few days, when we will begin a more thorough discussion of the economic plan for 1986. We will discuss it with all the working rank and file -- all the workers, all the peasants, everyone -- so we may better understand our economic problems and the goals of the 1986 plan. We have already mastered the revolution's military defense plan and we must now master the revolution's economic defense plan.

HUMBERTO O..EGA DISCUSSES DEFENSE, U.S. POLICY

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[Speech by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra at an event to present combat flags to three reserve battalion brigades; place not given -- live]

[Text] Brothers of the National Directorate of the Nicaraguan people's historic vanguard, the FSLN, diplomatic corps, special guests, mothers of our heroes and martyrs, working and fighting people of Nicaragua, companeros: With this central event of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], today we initiate the combative and operational preparation of our entire Army. At this event we will also present combat flags to the new Jose Benito Escobar, Casimiro Sotelo, and Ricardo Morales Brigades. During this symbolic ceremony we will also dedicate the facilities of our Army's Mechanized Infantry's 30th Brigade.

In the first quarter of 1985, the Army's General Staff suggested to the commanding office, in accordance with the plans of the 3d Military Region -- which comprises the urban and peripheral areas of Managua, the capital -- that among its forces the 3d Military Region should include the three brigades which today received their combat flags, and will now bolster the provisions made to defend the capital. We have already been bolstering these provisions for Managua's urban and peripheral areas. These brigades are characterized by their combative readiness. One of them has been organized as a mechanized infantry brigade. The brigades comprise both permanent and reserve units which include those demobilized from the Patriotic Military Service and former combatants of the well-known BIR [Reserve Infantry Battalion].

This event is taking place at a difficult moment for the Sandinist people's revolution. In recent weeks and months, our government and political authorities have been pointing to the dangerous situation to which the present U.S. Administration is bent on leading Central America.

At various times and places in late December, our revolution's political leaders pointed out elements of the U.S. Administration's interventionist escalation against our country. In those days emphasis was placed on the U.S. Administration's delivery of Redeye antiaircraft missiles to the mercenary forces in an effort to save them from our armed people's systematic harassment. In recent days, the interventionist aggressive escalation about which our revolutionary government has been informing our people and which it has been denouncing to the world, has been further intensified. The U.S. Administration, represented by George Shultz, recently received the so-called Triple A, the leaders of the U.S. mercenary forces -- [Adolfo] Calero, [Alfonso] Robelo, and [Arturo] Cruz. On that occasion, as evidence of the interventionist escalation against our country, Mr Shultz ignored Nicaragua's legitimate government. Shultz' meeting with the top leaders of his mercenary forces, quote, coincided, unquote, with Msgr Obando's visit. All this sought to justify to the U.S. Congress, as well as to persuade it, concerning the resumption of more direct and overt military aid for their mercenary forces, which are currently experiencing the grave symptoms of the strategic defeat that our people have been inflicting on them.

While the U.S. Government seeks to ignore the legitimate Nicaraguan Government, the provocations staged mainly from the Costa Rican border in the form of constant attacks on our border spots have been intensified in January. It must be noted here that in their insolence the mercenary forces have even used pirate planes to harass our border post in the area of La Penca toward the Atlantic Ocean, that is, on the San Juan River toward San Juan del Norte. This more overt and insolent use of the neighboring territories to carry out mercenary activities against Nicaragua is also bolstered by the mercenaries' intense mobilizations of all kinds in their main base, Honduras, and from some air bases in El Salvador, from where they bring in supplies by air to the mercenary forces harassed by our people.

Also, as part of this interventionist U.S. escalation against our country, our state and military intelligence bodies have discovered that chemical bacteriological experiments are being conducted in Honduras near the Nicaraguan border which they probably intend to use against Nicaragua's economy and people in the near future, within the framework of the current interventionist situation.

The U.S. maneuvers in Honduras are increasing. Until May 1986, 10,000 U.S. soldiers and officers will be threateningly and provocatively present on Honduran soil with the "Terencio Sierra" maneuver. Not satisfied with this type of political and military activity, the U.S. Government is already preparing the "Big Pine IV" maneuver in which the participation of naval equipment and a group of aircraft carriers is being considered for the first time. This would further exacerbate the already tense situation marked by war and political crisis which the area, and especially our people, are currently experiencing as a result of the obstinate and unjust position maintained by the warmongers in the Pentagon and the White House.

Our country's intelligence bodies also report that in the next few days a ship sailing under the Chilean flag with a Uruguayan crew, contracted by a South American commercial company, will arrive in Costa Rica with war materiel to supply the mercenary forces operating against our country from the south. Around the same time, in mid-February, thousands of pounds of weapons will arrive from the United States to try to reactivate the mercenary forces from Honduras, following the strategic defeat that our armed people have inflicted on them.

It must be noted that the aid that President Ronald Reagan has requested for those mercenary, counterrevolutionary arms in 1986 is more than the military aid that will be provided this year to either Panama or Guatemala.

With its irresponsible behavior in the region, the U.S. Government is not only continuing to bolster the policy of state terrorism against our working people, but it is also preparing to maintain a sixth independent army in Central America, or rather a seventh army, if one includes Panama. Its purpose is to pressure the Central American armed forces and governments into submitting more docilely to its aggressive plans of domination against our peoples, and especially against Nicaragua.

The United States has given over $4 billion in military aid to Central America during the last 5 years. Most of this military aid has gone to the puppet Salvadoran Government, with Honduras in second place. Even democratic Costa Rica has received over $800 million in aid for the purpose of destabilizing the Costa Rican people's democratic and civilian-oriented traditions and pushing the Costa Rican Government toward the U.S. adventure against Nicaragua.

With this information we have sought to stress the gravity of our revolution's situation due to the U.S. Administration's refusal to accept Nicaragua's popular, democratic, and Sandinist reality in order to proceed to a political process of negotiation leading to the peace for which we all yearn. Despite what is stated in the reactionary propaganda campaign led by imperialism's transnationals, it is not the Nicaraguan Government or the Nicaraguan people who oppose a just and honorably negotiated political solution. The ones opposing it are the ones who invaded Nicaragua with William Walker in 1855 and 1857; the same ones who yesterday intervened but were answered by the fists of Benjamin Zeledon and Augusto Cesar Sandino; the same filibusterers who upheld Somozism; they are the ones who today are bent on once more placing the exploiters -- who with Somoza are responsible for Nicaragua's crisis, backwardness, and poverty and for the blood shed by our people to achieve final liberation -- at the head of Nicaragua's power structure.

However, our working people, who are not intimidated by the U.S. Government's threats, continue advancing in the process of strategically defeating the mercenaries. Today, 1 February, as we begin the combative and operational preparation of our Army, and the Sandinist directorate faced the workers and laborers who have taken up the rifles with which to achieve freedom, 340 mercenaries have already been wiped out by our brave fighters in January, [applause] 52 mercenaries have been captured by our Armed Forces, and 103 civilian victims -- workers, children, women -- have resulted from the activities carried out by Shultz and Reagan's mercenaries.

The process of strategic defeat of the mercenaries does not stop, and neither does the military preparation, organization, and strengthening of these units, these men, and these fists, which will victoriously confront the U.S. intervention, should they decide to launch it. [applause, shouts of "People's power!" "People's power!"]

Our revolutionary government, as we very well know, does not rest for a single moment amid the intense diplomatic and political work it is carrying out in search of political negotiation and peace. However, one should not forget for a single instant or moment that Nicaragua's peace policy is based on the Nicaraguan Sandinist people's morale and on these weapons. [applause]

This year Nicaraguans celebrate the 25th anniversary of the FSLN. [applause] Twenty-five years ago we were but the embryo of this great Army of armed masses that we are today. On this 25th anniversary of the forging, creation, and foundation of the FSLN; on this 25th anniversary of the forging of the Nicaraguan people's vanguard detachment; on this 25th anniversary of our vanguard organization, the FSLN, we the officers, the noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of our Army feel more strengthened and morally committed to do our duty by our homeland, and to comply with the interests of the people's revolution.

We will emulate our heroes, our leaders in the FSLN, the vanguard detachment, with the national directorate at the head of that detachment -- a detachment that began fighting with nails, fists, .38 revolvers, and mended rifles. With this historic vanguard, with the Sandinist Front National Directorate and its revolutionary government, our Armed Forces will be stronger, more honorable, more combative, more Sandinist and anti-imperialist. [applause, slogans]

The reserve military service process has made the advances we are witnessing today in this ceremony possible. Implementation of this process began last year and the vital role played by the workers and their leaders, the unions, the work center leaders, and the revolution's political and mass structures must be noted. This has brought about the formation of the brigades we are presenting today. Our workers' creativity during this process has been notable, and as an example we would like to mention the Enabus [National Bus Enterprise] workers, who established registration boards last year not only at their work places, but also established mobile registration boards, which made it possible for the drivers to register in order to create these units. Today, these units include thousands of workers, laborers, technicians, and professionals not only from the people's ownership sector, but from the country's private enterprises as well.

Tens of thousands of Managua residents between the ages of 25 and 40 complied with the civic duty of registering in the reserve military service during October and November 1985. In January 1986, the reservists summoned to comply with their civic duty and show up at the corresponding military boards to receive their assignments fulfilled this duty.

This entire process has made it possible for the newly-created reserve units to better fulfill the various plans stemming from the revolution's military doctrine and its corresponding strategy for repelling, bogging down, and prolonging a U.S. intervention, should one take place.

During this first period of Army training, it is necessary to give priority to the combative preparation of these reserve units where the reserve officers, the squad chiefs, and the lower ranking specialists, as well as the combat, artillery, combative, material preparedness units, and others play a very important role.

With more dedication, organization and efficiency, we will fulfill the defense plans ordered for us. We will do our duty through our historic vanguard, the FSLN. As you have sworn, we will do our duty with our workers' sweat, and with the blood of our workers, peasants, professionals, and technicians, who are rebuilding the homeland amid the bullets Reagan's policy of state terrorism sends against our homeland every day. We will abide by our unyielding oath, Free Fatherland or Death, and we reaffirm our position that victorious Nicaragua neither sells out nor surrenders. [applause]

CIA, FDN ALLEGEDLY FORMING INTERNAL FRONT

PA032120 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA, and the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] are trying to create an internal front in northern Zelaya to hinder the peace negotiations being held in that area of the northern Atlantic region. This charge was made by Subcommander Jose Gonzalez, delegate of the Interior Ministry in Special Zone No. 1, who stressed that U.S. imperialism has unleashed a slanderous campaign to hinder the autonomy process.

The military officer said the CIA and FDN plans include the murder of Indians who participate in the peace dialogue on the Atlantic coast.

He indicated that imperialism plans to carry out a vast mercenary plan to affect the communities on the banks of the Coco River in order to prevent the establishment of tranquility among the Indians living there. Subcommander Gonzalez indicated that the FDN, together with groups belonging to KISAN [Unity of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Indigenous People] have united in an attempt to increase their activities and that they are forcing the young Indians to take up weapons to fight against their brothers.

COSTA RICA ELECTION RESULT 'COMPLICATION' FOR U.S.

PA040449 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Costa Rican political observers were of the opinion today that the decision of the Costa Rican people to elect Social Democrat Oscar Arias Sanchez to the presidency is an unexpected complication for the interventionist strategy of the United States in Central America.

The Reagan administration had harbored all hopes in the victory of Social Christian Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, a young 36-year-old ultraconservative attorney, who is openly in favor of breaking relations with Nicaragua and undermining the peacekeeping efforts of the Contadora Group in the region.

'CHRISTIANS' PROTEST CARDINAL'S 'SUPPORT FOR U.S.'

PA031839 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 30 Jan 86 p 10

[Excerpts] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's open support for Reagan's policy of aggression in Central America is meeting with opposition from an increasing number of Christians throughout Nicaragua. The Christians have sent a letter to the cardinal recalling the Church's call for renewal, which supports the peoples' right to liberation.

The text of the letter to Cardinal Obando follows:

Your Eminence, Msgr Miguel, Cardinal Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua:

A group of Christians from the various Nicaraguan regions met today. We have been examining our role within Nicaraguan society and the revolutionary process for some time, aware that our people are currently suffering the consequences of a war President Reagan has imposed on our country. We are called upon to convey the gospel's comforting message to the people and the hope that must emanate from Christians as they joyously give of themselves to serve others.

The Puebla document (point 792) vests in the laity a special political role which compels us to defend man's dignity and the rights of the weakest and to work for peace and the establishment of more just and fraternal structures.

We have taken great offense at the campaign in which you are currently engaged in the United States to support President Reagan's policy and the handing over of millions of dollars to the counterrevolution.

With great sorrow, but with the love that unites brothers under one faith, we must advise you that your policy of unwavering support for the U.S. Government openly places you in a position that contravenes the Nicaraguan people's interests and bleeds and brings suffering upon the poor.

We ask you to heed our just demand in the name of the gospel. Meanwhile, we will continue, united in prayer, to ask that peace will once again reign in Nicaragua.

Signed: Nicaraguan Christians

P.S. We decided to release this letter to the press based on our desire to serve the Church and in order that the Christian community may extract a message from it.

EL NUEVO DIARIO editorial note: This letter is signed by 105 Christians.

UNO ON FSLN'S PROPOSED MEETING OF AMERICAN PARTIES

PA042121 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 3 Feb 86 p 18

[By Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] An international dispatch datelined Managua contains a statement by one of the nine FSLN Commanders, Bayardo Arce. In it, Arce comments on the invitation extended to the 93 political parties on the American continent "that have adopted an independent attitude" regarding the U.S. policies against Nicaragua. Commander Arce added: "Likewise, the liberation movements that have gained legitimacy" have been invited, such as the Colombian and Salvadoran guerrillas, among others.

Because of this statement, Alvaro Altamirano, the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, UNO, representative in Panama, has come to CRITICA to say that the fact that Nicaragua extends official recognition to the Colombian terrorist movement is "outrageous and offensive to Colombia (a member of the Contadora Group). [no closing quotation marks as published]. "I do not know how President Betancur is going to react to this new offensive, which is part of a long chain of Sandinist offenses against Colombia."

"I suppose, and it ought to be so, that the Contadora Group will protest this disdain and mockery of international law with which the Sandinists have responded to the appeals for peace made by the Contadora Group."

"This confirms the links between them that have been reported, in the sense that Nicaragua is a center for shelter and logistical support for all the guerrilla movements on the continent. It also shows that the same adventure that Fidel Castro embarked upon more than 20 years ago, to create guerrilla movements, is still considered feasible."

"I am also surprised by the announcement that former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez will attend the meeting because this will give a seal of support to these subversive movements." Altamirano concluded by saying that "some of the members of the FSLN National Directorate (the nine commanders) are in favor of negotiations with the UNO, which is directed by Adolfo Calero, Alfonso Robelo, and Arturo Cruz. However, the 'hard liners' do not want to negotiate; they are even willing to confront all of Central America in order to remain in power. My opinion is that Fidel is in favor of negotiation."

THIRD COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS OPENS 4 FEBRUARY

Opening Session

FL041452 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Radio and Television services in Spanish at 1351 GMT on 4 February begin live coverage of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Third Party Congress held in Havana's Palace of Conventions and carried on all radio and television networks.

The opening TV shot shows a Tele-Rebelde announcer inside the Palace of Conventions. The announcer gives a brief description of the delegations which have arrived for the congress as the camera pans the audience, showing a full auditorium. The announcer reports that after the opening remarks, President Fidel Castro will deliver the main report. The main report will be rebroadcast at a later time, the announcer adds.

The announcer reports that there will be a recess during the opening session and that the sessions will continue through the afternoon and possibly early evening.

At 1358 GMT the camera gives a wide shot of the audience standing and applauding as Fidel and Raul Castro enter and walk to the dais. The Cuban national anthem is played while the camera pans the stage and the dais. Vilma Espin is shown sitting behind Fidel and Raul Castro. Sitting at the dais with Castro are Fabio Grobart, Armando Hart Davalos, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Jesus Montane Oropesa, and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, who is sitting on Castro's right. Behind the dais, the camera shows pictures of communist leaders Karl Marx, Lenin, Jose Marti, Che Guevarra, and others mounted on the wall.

At 1400 GMT FAR Minister Raul Castro begins his speech introducing the congress. He reports that 186 delegations from various countries are present at the congress. "We assume the responsibility of evaluating the progress of our country," he says. He reviews the goals and topics that the congress will cover. Of the delegates selected, he says some are workers, others are in service-related jobs such as teachers, some are FAR representatives, while others are university-educated, and others still are internationalists. At 1408 GMT, Castro says: "I declare the Communist Party of Cuba Third Party Congress inaugurated." The audience gives him a standing ovation.

At 1409 GMT, Esteban Lazo, alternate Central Committee member, the president of the PCC Congress Council of Representatives, who is not identified by name, announces that the council has tentatively analyzed and approved the documents the congress will cover. This includes, he says, the basic program which defines each session; the congress rules, which establish guidelines and length of time for sessions; leadership bodies; work commissions; categories for participants; procedures for speaking; voting guidelines, and guidelines for the delegations; rules for electing officers such as members and alternate members of the Central Committee and the Secretariat; as well as presidents and members of the congressional commissions.

Lazo concludes speaking at 1414 GMT and the camera then shows PCC Politburo member and congress President Machado Ventura calling for a vote on the proposals. First, he asks if there is any discussion. When none is requested, he calls for a vote by a show of hands. The camera shows the audience in a wide shot approving the proposals. When Machado Ventura calls for a show of negative votes and abstentions, no one raises their hand. The speaker says the documents have been unanimously approved.

At 1415 GMT, Machado Ventura introduces Fidel Castro, who begins to read the main report to the congress.

Raul Castro Address

FL041546 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Address by Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, at the opening ceremony of the Third PCC Congress at Havana's Palace of Conventions -- live]

[Text] Comrades, as the culmination of 5 years of fruitful labor on all fronts of the revolution, and after a broad organic process that included all the party's requests and mobilized the energy, creativity, and intelligence of the Communists and of the entire people, today the Third PCC Congress begins its labors.

We are pleased and honored by the presence of 186 delegations from brother Communist parties, revolutionary movements, national democratic parties, socialist parties, and progressive organizations from the entire world, and others that will arrive soon in addition to those attending as observers. Also present is a group of outstanding personages from the world communist and revolutionary movements.

We greet all of you with a fraternal embrace. In the name of our party and people, we thank you for your gesture of solidarity in attending our third congress.

We delegates, representing more than one-half million Communists grouped into almost 40,000 organizations, take the responsibility for studying and evaluating the progress made in building socialism in our country, approving the strategy that will give continuity to this process, and ratifying the goals established for economic, political, and social development during the next 5-year period.

The congress will also discuss the draft of the first program of the PCC, which will later be studied by party organizations, the Union of Young Communists [UJC], the workers, peasants, and students, by FAR and Interior Ministry [Minint] combatants, and by the entire people, and then approved by a special session of the congress at the end of this year.

We will also study and approve the economic and social guidelines for the current 5-year period, enriched by more than 13,000 suggestions that express the responsibility, maturity, and support of our people for all and every one of the tasks of the revolution. Draft modifications of the statutes of the PCC summarize the experience obtained during these years and expresses the will of all the grass-roots organs and organizations, which provided valuable recommendations.

Other documents of transcendental importance will be studied that deal with perfecting the system of economic management and planning and deliberations on the political-administrative division of the country, subjects that have gained precision and depth corresponding to the experience acquired since they were adopted.

With the third PCC Congress, a stage of intense preparatory activity also culminates that included the assessment and elective processes of the grass-roots organizations and the intermediate-level management organizations of the PCC, the work done by the Central Preparatory Commission, the activity of the Central Committee plenums, and the tasks performed by state organs, mass social organizations, and by all the people with a view to saluting properly this historical meeting of Cuban Communists with concrete, encouraging results.

In the delegates elected to attend this congress, the most advanced, revolutionary, and responsible of our society is represented -- workers, peasants, scientists, intellectuals, and combatants. In the daily unselfish performance of their social activities and in the fulfillment of their political responsibilities, they have performed so meritoriously that they are worthy to represent the organized vanguard of our workers at this meeting.

Of the 1,790 elected delegates, 536 are workers, and 24 are peasants; 134 are workers directly linked to services, scientific activity, education, and other social tasks. Two hundred twenty three delegates are FAR and Minint combatants. Eight hundred seventy four are university graduates, and 442 are high school graduates. Among the delegates are 432 party founders and 563 comrades who have given internationalist aid to other peoples of the world.

Of the total number of third congress delegates elected in provincial assemblies and at the party conference of the FAR and Minit, at places of work and at military units with exceptional achievements in their specific activities, 1,784 comrades are present and 6 are absent for justifiable reasons.

Because the required quorum exists, and with the undying determination that Comrade Fidel has always inculcated in us to be faithful to the principles, and worthy of the respect of our heroic people, I declare the Third PCC Congress to be inaugurated. [prolonged applause]

ALGERIA'S ABDELGHANI, DELEGATION AT PCC CONGRESS

LD041753 Algiers APS in English 1325 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Havana, 4/2/86 (APS) The Third Congress of the Cuban Communist starts today in Havana with the participation of 1700 delegates and more than 200 foreign guests, the press agency "PRENSA LATINA" reported.

The Algerian delegation present in the congress is headed by Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani minister of state to the Presidency.

FIDEL CASTRO 31 JANUARY PEDAGOGY-86 CONGRESS SPEECH

FL011446 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0252 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at closing ceremony at Pedagogy-86 Congress, held in Havana's Karl Marx Theater on 31 January -- live]

[Text] Distinguished participants in the Pedagogy-86 Congress: This is the only mistake this congress had made, that is, to have me make the closing remarks, because I have not attended the congress. I have not participated in the congress because I have had to devote all my time to the preparation of the main report of another congress we will hold [applause] on 4 February. That one was initially scheduled for the end of 1985. We knew the enormous importance of this education congress. Later, when we were forced to postpone our party congress due to a delay in the preparation of the materials for just a few days before the Pedagogy-86 Congress, it created numerous problems for me and, at the same time, a painful situation because I had a very special interest in this congress. I would have preferred very much to have an active participation in it.

I do not like to make a closing speech or closing remarks if I am not 100 percent well-informed on what has taken place, all discussions, if I have had no participation, if I have not had an active participation. Lastly, I am somewhat ill, I have been suffering from an imperialist case of flu, the type [laughter] that is going around. [applause] It is a pro-Yankee virus. [laughter] It has made my life impossible in recent days. I am not as seriously ill as they were saying. I learned a few weeks ago that I had died, that I was very dead. [laughter] I almost attended the funeral. The news circulated in the United States, and from there it went around the world. I said to myself: If they are saying this, I am not going to deny it. That way their reputation will be hurt once again. [laughter, applause] They confuse their wishes with reality. It will be a test for me, let us see if my voice does not fail me tonight. That is why I am explaining all this and promise not to be very long.

I believe I have no topic left for my speech that has not been raised in this congress. I asked [minister of education] Fernandez what he had said in his lecture, which was enjoyed by all those attending the congress. I asked him what he had left for me to say, if there way anything left that had not been raised by him. I reviewed Fernandez' lecture and saw there was almost nothing to say. If my presence is to be justified, and because of the participation we have all had in Cuba's education process, which could be called revolution of education in Cuba, I could convey some of my impressions, some ideas, some of my experiences, some memories of what has made possible all the gains, or could be said made possible by the progress we have attained. Fernandez made a long introductory speech -- I say long, but I believe it was short -- outlining all historic data of what took place in Cuba. He explained the first steps taken. If I would refer to important moments of all this process, I would have to begin by pointing out the creation of 10,000 classrooms when the revolution came into power. That was the first rapid step taken, and I believe we delayed in taking it.

The revolution came into power in January when the school term had already begun. There was not much we could do then. We were at a point, the first weeks and months, of organizing the new revolutionary state. We were beginning a completely new experience for which we knew we did not have sufficient experience. The only good thing in our favor was that we were aware of our own ignorance and our limitations, that we were undertaking a very difficult task, even though we felt assured and trusted that we would be able to move forward. That path was not an easy one and was not free of difficulties.

I must say that in those days, even though we had many ideas regarding education, those ideas were very far from being perfect -- because there will never be any human work that is perfect. However, they were very far from the ideas we have today. We were aware of the great crisis in our country's education in those days as well as other Latin American countries. We were aware of the need to make a great effort, and we had talked about it before the triumph of the revolution. There were many persons talking about the catastrophe affecting our country's education, including many politicians, except that when those politicians joined the government, they would not solve any problems. I would not dare say they would not solve them because they did not want to do it, it could be because they could not do it.

Maybe [words indistinct] but was coming since the beginning of the Republic, that oppressed and neocolonialist Republic. People talked about the tragedy of education; about the stolen money, embezzlements, the lack of schools, high indexes of illiteracy, we were all aware of this tragic situation. There was talk about the need of a university reform, this had been discussed about for a long time. In Argentina and other countries there were talks and efforts were made about a university reform. There were talks about the need of combining education and research, etc.

When we began the revolutionary struggle, we were aware of many of these problems, and we clearly understood we had to face this situation and that we had to revolutionize the field of education. We were already talking about the ideas we had. I even remember that at the Moncada, before going to the Sierra Maestra -- we thought a lot at the Sierra Maestra about what we should do -- I remember that one of the things that we thought a lot about was how we could take secondary, technological, and preuniversity education to peasants. This was easier in the city since there were millions of isolated peasants in the countryside. So the question was, how could we take it to the country? A primary school can operate isolated with only one teacher, a multigrade teacher as we call it who teaches all six grades, but how could we provide secondary education with specialized staff and laboratory facilities?

How could we provide technological and preuniversity education? It was impossible to think about it considering isolated schools. So we were trying to find solutions. This is how the idea came about of creating university cities, rather, educational cities, school cities. We believed almost all provinces needed large schools that would be like cities where children who reached the age to attend secondary, technological, and preuniversity schools could go to. Those were one of the first ideas we had and, in fact, at the beginning of the revolution, we tried to build one of those university cities, we began to build it. I am not saying it was an ideal solution, but we were searching for a solution to the problem of providing mid-level education to the peasant's children. Of course, when the revolution triumphed we found [words indistinct] there were more than 1 million illiterates and the majority were semi-illiterate. Usually, there is a lot of talk about illiterates but little is said about semi-illiterates.

There was a lack of schools in the entire country, especially in the country, although there was a school shortage in the cities. Well, there are statistics, I believe Fernandez mentioned that in 1953, there were 56.4 schoolchildren attending schools. All this is very relatives to the [words indistinct] illiteracy because the situation worsened. From 1953 to 1959 the situation had worsened considerably. The data we have is from the 1953 census. That situation went from bad to worse. The population increased significantly, and there were more and more children without schools and more illiterates in the country. There were many who knew how to sign their name and spell and were not considered illiterate. There were more than half a million of children without schools. So the first effort we made was to create classrooms, actually, not classrooms but to assign teachers to groups. Many times, the classroom was a shade under a tree -- there were no facilities -- or a neighbor's house, or any kind of room was used as a school. What we did was to appoint teachers during the first year. We did this in December 1959. This was when we decided to create those classrooms. If you ask with what money, I would tell you that I do not know because we did not have money. Maybe we applied an inflationary process because at first we did not lack anything. You know that with capitalism there is a surplus of everything. People do not have money to buy anything and after the people have a little money, things start to be scarce. This is what forced us to compensate that inflationary situation and establish rationing. Of course, rationing did not affect [words indistinct] one liter of milk was guaranteed for each child until the age of 7; the essentials were guaranteed to children. We did all this without money thanks to that equalitarian measure we implemented. We avoided black market, large inflation, so don't ask anyone where we found the money to do the things the revolution did during its first years. [Words indistinct] with our own sacrifice, no one gave us loans, no one gave us resources for that and the vaults were empty. [Words indistinct] they began to work or all were given the opportunity to work.

Another thing we did during the early days -- Fernandez referred to it -- was to convert the barracks to schools. Terrific! Marvelous! We are proud of converting all barracks to schools or at least, almost all of them, including the main military fortress called Columbia which we renamed Liberty City. [applause] This was where the coups and main problems were always decided. How naive were we then! You can see the kind of dreamers we were that we thought barracks were not needed. Indeed, we did not need those kinds of barracks. They were placed in the middle of the cities, everywhere. Their main function was to maintain domestic order and to repress the people, but we were far away from the fact that later we would have to build many military installations. Apparently, we were not counting on imperialism since we considered that so far, we thought we could begin eliminating barracks and create classrooms. Later, all imperialist plans brought us to reality and forced us to create an Army who knows how many times larger than that of Batista because our Army is the entire population. [applause]

There were not only 20,000, 30,000, 70,000, 80,000 men as he had; there were millions of men and women in defense activities. Our enemy is not the people, our enemy is the empire, the most powerful empire that has ever existed and that has been blockading and threatening us constantly because it wants to destroy the revolution, in the same manner it is trying to destroy the revolution in Nicaragua, block it in El Salvador, destroy it in Angola, in many places.

We found ourselves necessarily defending the revolution. Fortunately, we were able to defend it without closing schools, without transforming the schools back into barracks. It was a privilege we enjoyed, that is fulfilling the two functions -- education and defense. Fernandez also recalled the creation of volunteer teachers in the countryside. The unemployed teachers at the time were not sufficient, or not all the unemployed teachers were willing to go to the countryside. We organize the so-called movement of volunteer teachers, who were not teachers in many instances, many were third and fourth year high school students. This movement recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. It was created around 1970.

There was another climax later on in the revolution's effort in education, that was the literacy drive. We had more than 1 million illiterates. What we did is that with that trust, that enthusiasm, with that courage of the first few years -- it is still there today but today it has a more solid foundation and a more scientific environment, as the professors would say -- we decided to eliminate illiteracy. We saw in illiteracy a sort of Batista army, or something similar, and they were very similar. So we decided to eliminate illiteracy. If we are asked why we decided to eliminate it in 1 year -- the first country to carry out such a feat -- we would not be able to respond or make any sense. We just decided to eliminate it because it was there, and we had to do it as fast as possible. [applause]

We could have prepared a 10-year plan, as many have done, but it was not something that could be considered a part of the revolutionary temperament. We could not wait that many years and decided that we had to take advantage of the people's and youths' enthusiasm. We were convinced that if we mobilize the students, they would teach, and that was what we did. The students were trained, organized, part of the school term was modified without affecting it much, and 100,000 students were sent out to teach. Part of the task was to go to the mountains. Who went there? The students from preuniversity and secondary levels went. More than 100,000 were mobilized.

Thousands of teachers, workers, [words indistinct] were also mobilized. But, the people's teachers [alfabetizadores] did not go to the mountains. We sent the young students to the most remote places. I believe that all countries under similar circumstances can do the same thing. We mobilized in 1 year. Fortunately, our language is Spanish. If it would have been Chinese, I believe it would have been very difficult to teach everybody to read and write in 1 year. I believe in China it takes years to teach reading and writing in the schools, but Spanish was relatively easy for more than 700,000 citizens who were illiterates. It was a great effort in which more than 250,000 compatriots had a participation. It was a great battle that took place in the midst of an acute aggressive policy by the United States against our country. A policy that entailed the organization of counterrevolutionary bands, such as the ones it now has in Nicaragua -- there it was easy because it has borders, here it was not. [sentence as heard] Through Honduras [words indistinct].

They are so boldfaced that they deny it every day. They deny it. Here they did not have that type of borders. It was the sea. In reality a large part of the arms were seized by us. It did not matter if they came in ships, dropped with parachutes.

most of them were being seized by us. [applause] But the bandits killed teachers, many who were in the literacy drive. This same story repeated itself later in Nicaragua. Many Cuban teachers sacrificed themselves there. Cuban teachers were murdered there by imperialist mercenary bands. At the time we had some 2,000 teachers in Nicaragua.

Later the Nicaraguans trained their own teachers. We helped them, and now they are fulfilling that task. But the bandits murdered teachers, even social workers were murdered in Cuba. There was a certain degree of danger in the literacy drive. Around those days the mercenary invasion in Giron took place. For us the greatest satisfaction was that not even during the invasion did the literacy drive stop. We decided that if a war was unleashed, those youths would be better off in the mountains. Not only did the drive not stop, but it continued in the midst of that threat. [passage indistinct]

Taking into consideration the levels of experience and organization existing at the time, I believe it was a great feat to carry out that literacy drive. After the literacy drive, we had a follow-up. We could not be satisfied with the drive alone, because if we did not have a follow-up some of those who had been trained could lose what they had learned and go back to being illiterates again. That is what we called the follow-up plan, and later on the worker-peasant education.

Fernandez also spoke about that, and afterward came the polytechnical battle [words indistinct]. By the end of the 60's the battle began for the sixth grade education. The follow-up plan had good results. In essence that is what took place in the 1960's.

What was the result of that effort? All children had classrooms and teachers. How was it done? Those 10,000 teachers would not suffice, and not all of them went [to the mountains]. Many of them were trained in the cities and were not trained to fulfill such duties on the mountains and the countryside. It became necessary to mobilize many citizens, housewives, and students having a certain degree of schooling and give them some training so they could perform as teachers, give them certain courses of study, make them study the methodology, and give them the books to train the growing school population.

This coincided with the triumph of the revolution and there was a certain degree of optimism, the result -- as demonstrated by history -- was many marriages and many births. Do not think that everything was the product of enthusiasm [laughter], as it is said, sometimes it was because there was no television, no radio, no electricity. No, that was not the only reason. Some other things were also missing, such as contraceptives. [laughter] I want you to know so that you may enjoy it and laugh at the expense of our bitter experiences. When commercial stores were nationalized, many people who did not know what they were doing began buying and selling what the country needed. They did not even know what this was all about.

There is a truth I will tell you here very intimately [laughter] There is an anecdote that is not made up. Someone said: One has to wear this, that, or that other thing, and that so many diaphragms had to be used...[laughter] as contraceptives. To tell the truth, someone bought a large quantity of diaphragms and automobiles. [laughter] It is truly unbelievable the many things that can take place in a revolution. [laughter] That is what ignorance brings about. I do not know the size of the diaphragm in an automobile, but I know this story is true. [laughter] I do not know what they did with all they purchased, if they used it or re-expected it, but all that contributed to the demographic explosion. Children were born in industrial quantities and in assembly line fashion. [laughter]

Unfortunately, this occurs routinely in many Latin American countries.

There was a time that the number of children reaching the preschool age was large, some 200,000 or more, I have no exact figures. We needed schools for all these children. We also needed teachers. This problem repeated itself later on. All this took place between 1960 and 1970. Along with this, we made a mistake. [Words indistinct] at a certain time, we were concerned, troubled by the fact that the teachers did not want to go to the mountains. We reached the conclusion that [passage indistinct].

The first big school for teachers was built on the mountains. [passage indistinct] All students wanting to become teachers had to spend their first year there. Many of them did not want to leave their families, or refused to go there. What was our error? I believe we underestimated man's consciousness. Perhaps, we imagined, as a result of our guerrilla experience in the mountains, that the best manner to teach the students was by making them experience the work in the countryside, life in the countryside and mountains. [passage indistinct]

The number of teachers who were graduating [leaves thought unfinished] many wanted to go, but how many could adapt to such conditions? Evidently, we did not take into consideration that during those days students entered the teacher-training school with a sixth grade education. What can a sixth grade child be at 12, or 15 years old? With 2 years in that level of schooling, he could be 14 years old. What was admirable was the relatively high number of persons who were able to endure the training. Many wanted to go, thousands and thousands. But, of course, the families that were willing to send them there were not many, but there were many children. Despite the many who were going, those who could not take it were fewer. Later on, they went to another mountain school located in Havana for the last 2 years.

This caused a delay in our teacher-training program. What is important is not where man lived but what he has inside of him, what is instilled in him. One day we realized that we wanted to have all the teachers we needed for that enormous mass of students, other types of conditions and other ways were needed. We had to build new, modern, large teacher-training schools. Some of them are big enough for 4,500 students, such as the Salvador Allende School. They had to be built in the cities.

We decided to recruit the students as interns. Peasants from the mountains could attend. It is a different story when they come from the mountains to a school with all all the students need provided to them. When you send a child from the city to the mountains it is different. We could trust the formation. Thousands and thousands were registered. At a certain point in time we had 35,000 students or more registered in the teacher-training schools. But, these were excellent buildings that had to be built together with many other school installations. [passage indistinct]

Never again did we run short of teachers who were willing to go to the countryside. This is a demonstration of how wonderful it is to come up with good ideas. We never have a lack of teachers not only willing to go to the countryside, but willing to go to any country. When it became necessary to go to Nicaragua under very difficult conditions [applause], we asked and 29,000 responded. That was in 1979 or 1980. Some 29,000 volunteered to go to Nicaragua. We only needed 2,000 and they were going to very difficult places. Sometimes they had to walk 3 days to get where they were going. They lived there with the peasants. There was no lack of teachers to send to Angola to teach the children under very difficult conditions.

But there is something else that is more demonstrative of the power of the ideas and this is that when some of those teachers were killed, then 100,000 more teachers volunteered. [applause] All volunteered.

We had enough teachers not only to go to our mountains but to go to the mountains of any other country [words indistinct]. But time went by before we could say that all our teachers had degrees. So in 1970, although the number of primary school students amounted to almost 2 million -- that included those who were behind in their studies, plus the large group who was promoted, and those who were enrolled a little earlier -- you can figure out the amount of teachers we needed. Sometimes in the countryside one teacher had five or ten pupils because they lived in an isolated place. Others would have 20, 25, or even 30. There was a case in our mountains that a teacher was giving classes to her five children. She was her own children's teacher and was paid for it. They live in a very remote area. We had a large number of teachers; they were over 100,000, but 70 percent of them have no degrees. They were educated, had a certain educational level, but did not have degrees. That demanded an effort to provide courses for those teachers aimed at improving their education and obtaining degrees.

The Education Institute [Instituto de Superacion Educacional] which used to have a different name [words indistinct] all this happened in the 1960's and we had this large amount of students in the 1970's. This is when a big jump is produced and [words indistinct] no, the richest in experiences, in progress, was the decade of the 1970's, between the 1970's and the 1980's. What happened in that decade? I still have to point out that during this previous decade institutions that did not exist were created such as the professional technical education, special education, and child care centers. Those are new, those are from the 1960's.

During the 1970's we confronted the following problems: Seventy percent of primary school teachers did not have degrees; we had a mass of children who were going to sixth grade and who begin to graduate from sixth grade. We were going to have the problems we had with those of primary schools with those that were reaching mid-level. We either had to find a solution to that problem or educational development was going to stop. That was the situation during the first years of the 1970's. How were we going to solve that? Fortunately, the country was more experienced, more organized, [words indistinct] and we began to find the answers to the need for educational installations for the huge masses that arrived to secondary levels, to seventh grade. I want you to know that there were certain times during those years, of that decade, that only 2,000 high school students graduated in the country since there were groups of students who were going to study to be teachers, Air Force students, students for many different specialized areas. There was a time when we hardly had high school graduates to enter the university. The relatively small mass of students at that level was reduced. The lack of preuniversity school graduates contrasted with the needs for university graduate professionals. During that decade we already had the idea of the work-school program, not in the way it would be designed later but by using part of the school time to participate in productive work. This is how the school in the countryside program in which a youth voluntarily -- as it does today -- went as much as 6 weeks to the countryside to perform agricultural tasks. So in that decade, we begin to combine education and work. Ideas had progressed, they had evolved, and during the decade of the 1970's -- considering that many of those students that would attend the basic secondary school were students from the mountains, from the countryside -- we thought it would also be beneficial, maybe more so, for the students from the cities -- we began to build basic secondary schools in the countryside. Later, preuniversity schools in the countryside were created. It is possible that you may have been taken to visit some of those kinds of schools.

I tell you that it was a wealthy and fertile time in ideas and initiatives. That was the time when we begin to build all the teacher training schools we needed. Presently, we have 20. We began to build the first vocational schools. The idea for those schools came from the scientific-technical interest circles that had developed and also from the monitor-students.

We wanted for those students who had excelled for their interest in science, technology, or monitors or outstanding students, to have a center where they could study when they reached the seventh grade. This is how they were created in each one of the former provinces. Large schools were built; three of them have room for 4,500 students and 2,500 students in smaller provinces. They are large vocational schools in which the students were admitted according to their record after they graduated from sixth grade. This is how we made room for over 20,000 students, approximately for 24,000 students in those vocational schools that were built in every province. During that time, tens, hundreds of technological schools or polytechnical schools, as we called them, were built to train mid-level technicians and skilled workers. Child care center schools, schools for physical education teachers, art vocational schools, military vocational schools -- for those students who wanted to study military careers, which were need in mass because of the problems I mentioned earlier, which forced us to develop defense -- were created.

Sports training schools were created. They are very good installations that were attended by students who had shown special aptitude in sports. In these schools they continue to attend normal courses of study as well as training in special installations for sports. There is a great variety of schools. I am not sure if I have forgotten to mention some of them. For example, there are the polytechnic schools. There are a great number of all types of schools for intermediate level of a great quality. Hundreds of those schools were built. The construction was excellent. Construction brigades specialized in schools were organized. This solved a great problem.

Who were going to be the professors at those intermediate level schools? Students attending the school of education at the universities were just a few thousand. There were not enough and would never be sufficient. Around 80,000 professors were needed for the intermediate level. How could we solve that problem? It was more difficult than to improvise teachers for first, second, and third grades. But an idea emerged, because necessity is the mother of science, someone said. It could also be the mother of the ideas. A problem had to be solved.

Then the idea of the Manuel Ascunce Domenech Educational Detachment emerged. Manuel Ascunce was a young man who joined the literacy drive and was murdered in 1961 by the mercenary bands of the CIA. What did we do? There was a relatively large growing mass of secondary level students. During a youth congress, we made a proposal to all students who wanted to become professors.

The importance of the job was explained to them as well as the need we had to solve the problem. Many thousand youths responded affirmatively. That is another lesson that every time we have appealed to the youth, we have had an excellent response. Many thousands and, with them, we applied the principle of study and work, which reached a climax during this decade. The secondary and preuniversity schools in the countryside and polytechnic institutes next to the factories were combining study and work, some 3 hours daily in this activity.

What we did with these students was to combine their courses of study as professors, beginning with the 10th grade, with their work. They were studying, preparing their programs, but lived in the schools, attended installations that were close by those schools in the countryside. It is not the same thing to find a professor for the countryside and to find one for the city. Those students who had the problem began to study as professors and teach at the same time. Because many thousands were registering every year, many contingents were waiting, to the point that we had dozens of thousands students, in the detachment with that system.

In those days was when the uniforms were made for all schools in different colors, among them for this detachment.

TEXT They were combining work with the study for professors. This was not enough. The mass was so big that to the degree we graduated primary school professors, we had to have primary school professors study and act as secondary school level professors. This same thing had to be done for the preuniversity, polytechnic, and technological school professors. Some 10 years were devoted to this process, but we were able to find a solution to the problem.

In this manner an enormous number of very valuable youths joined the branch of education. These were young people who had a long life ahead of them and plenty of time to learn, and they were going to obtain their professor title. All this forced us to prepare future programs, because it seemed to us that the 10th grade was the ideal level to register to study for professor of basic secondary schools. Of course, as soon as we could we changed to the teacher-training schools from six to nine grades as a registration requisite; we required nine grades to register in the teacher-training schools, and 12 grades to register for the educational detachment.

Later on, all this forced us to give the teachers, who had registered with a sixth grade and had studied 5 years, special courses of study to reach the level of those who had registered with nine grades, and those who had registered with 10 grades in order to bring them up to the level of those who registered for professor training with 12 grades. We were albe to fulfill the task and solve the problem.

I mentioned that during that decade the idea of study and work was consolidated. I believe this idea is very interesting. If I have returned to it, it is because I feel that it has a special importance. This idea was discussed over a period of many decades. Marx discussed the idea of combining work with study. A long time had elapsed since the talk about this had begun, more than a century, or around a century. In reality this had never been applied consistently.

They based their idea on the experience they had of what had taken place in Europe, that is, children of 7 or 8 years were made to work 12 or 14 hours or more. They were mercilessly exploited. In many books written by Engels, above all, when he speaks of the life of the working class in England, he explains the merciless manner in which the children were being exploited. That is why the founders of scientific socialism reached the conclusion that it would be healthy, even useful if the education of those children who were getting none was combined with work. He thought it was a more wholesome formation to combine work and study.

But in this case we are motivated not only by a theoretical issue, based on Marxist theory, but also by Marti's ideas. He had spoken about the subject more than once. He was an ardent supporter, and this had no relation to Marxism, it was based on his experience. He spoke about the pen and the book in the morning, and work in the afternoon. We had two great sources of inspiration for this idea of combining work and study. In addition, we were convinced that it was the correct formula because most everybody had been interned in schools and knew what it felt to be locked up like in a jail from morning to evening.

Undoubtedly for a child it was a lot healthier and more pleasant. He would be able to assimilate much more if he had a possibility of combining physical work with intellectual work. I really regret that I was not able to attend one of those schools that would have been much better than the type of schoold that I had.

We began applying this principle. Because of our experiences we had also arrived at a conclusion.

If it was internationalized, [corrects himself] if education was made universal, work had to be made universal. If not, we were taking the risk of creating a society of intellectuals in which no one had the slightest idea what manual labor was. Society had always divided human beings between those who studied and those who did not. The minority that did study used to be the privileged one, with the best jobs. Those who did not study had the hardest jobs in the country and the city, everywhere. This is why Marxism referred to making manual labor and intellectual work disappear. It is one of the goals that social revolutions have not reached yet, but it is still a goal to be fulfilled. If 100 percent of the children went to school -- to primary, secondary, preuniversity school -- they did not have any contact with the physical labor. We were going to create a society of intellectuals. This was one of the reasons that strongly motivated the work-study program concept.

On the other hand, our countries are poor. Education is expensive and children can contribute to the economic development of the country, to the production of necessary resources for the country with 3 hours of labor, which is a bearable kind of work. Three hours work is much more bearable for a 14 or 15 year-old than for a 40 or 50 year-old mature man. There is no doubt about it. I believe Bernard Shaw said that one child is capable of wearing out three boxing champions in 1 day. There was a financial reason although that was not the basic objective. The basic reason was training, it was pedagogic. The rest, the financial reason was a result of this educational approach. This concept was used in universities. Later, we made some changes. At the university level we related productive work to production, not to any kind of work. We have applied the concept of productive work to primary schools. All rural schools in the country have an orchard and certain cities have areas for agriculture where children raise vegetables for their own consumption in schools. [words indistinct] until the universities with some changes. We began introducing innovations as we gathered experience in these matters.

Thus, the 1970's were, I repeat, some of the most fertile years in ideas and initiatives that made our present achievements a reality. During that period, it was possible to provide certificates to all primary school teachers. Of course, I have not referred to higher education, which was growing in proportion to the rest of education.

I forgot something very important that Fernandez would not forgive me if I did not mention it here and with reason. It is the continuing education program. It is an effort to continue training. This program began in 1972. He already explained it in detail so I do not have to repeat what that effort was all about. It has brought great progress and enriching experiences. This concept is considered as a continuing educational process.

What else is new in this decade, since we are talking about the 1970's? Great qualitative progress was reached. During the 1970's a study program for teachers was created. We had already achieved or were achieving the task of all teachers having their certifications. We wanted to provide teachers with the possibility of pursuing higher education. Many of them had the opportunity to study to be mid-level teachers. But were we going to be happy with the fact that the majority of teachers would remain as primary school teachers? They were students who were admitted to school after their ninth grade and studied for 4 years. No. According to the concepts we had been developing about the need of a constant improvement we created [words indistinct] This was in the 1970's, at the end of the 1970's, more or less in 1979 or 1980, when the first primary school teachers began to be admitted to the universities. All this, of course, needed great development for higher teachers institutes to train all those mid-level teachers, and moreover, for all primary school teachers to obtain their bachelor's degree.

Last year, in 1985, we had the privilege of graduating the first 2,700 teachers with a bachelor's degree in primary education. [applause] They were going to obtain higher education -- among these first graduates are many of those who were voluntary teachers in the 1960's, those who were fighting illiteracy -- not to teach primary school students, hence, to increase the quality of primary education. We have a large number of students enrolled. Presently, there are 36,000 primary school teachers studying for their bachelor's degree in primary education.

There are 14,000 in preparatory training, and we are not going to stop there. We have learned to be optimistic, because sometime ago it occurred to us to do very difficult things and, fortunately, we were able to do them. We are not going to stop until all primary school teachers have a university bachelor's degree in primary school education. [applause] They will, of course, attain a higher level of education, a bigger salary -- as it is logic, equal to seniority -- there a number of factors to be considered for teacher and professor salaries.

In other words, during this decade this program attained a high degree of attention. The institutes of higher education at the same time were greatly benefited to the degree that today they have 107,000 registered students. You will probably say: that many university students? We talk about 250,000 and we are continuing to do the same thing. There will be all kinds of university graduate students and we will not have any jobs for them, you say. No, fortunately, that is not our case.

More than half of those attending classes, I mean regular students, are around 100,000. The rest are workers attending school. They are studying to continue to do the same work they are doing. [applause] Teachers are studying to continue to work as teachers. These are teachers already working as teachers, nurses already working, factory workers who are already working. We see superior education not just as a tool for money, no sir. If anyone wants to study we have correspondence courses to study history, or any other courses. We make it possible to study for those who want to do it, to raise their level of knowledge and do so consistently. We open the doors of the university for everyone who wants to learn, and we try to make our programs fit our needs by developing technicians. Later on I will explain another concept that gives us a greater range to continue graduating university professionals in large numbers.

For us this was a problem. How were we able to do this? How have we been able to send so many teachers to study? Those teachers study and work. But some of them had registered with 6th grade and then studied 5 years, and when they tried to enter the university they had to be retrained. They had 1 free year with salary to attend the preparatory courses for the university -- that is, free with salary. Later on, the last year of the course is also free with salary.

You will ask: Who will do those teachers' work? Well, another new idea that emerged or was about to emerge and has now become a reality the creation of a reserve of teachers and professors. [applause] We wanted to close the teacher-training schools the day we did not need any more, or limit the students for replacement. Of course, the teacher-training schools will always operate because that is another phenomenon of our society. The teacher has always held a very prestigious position. Every so often someone is asking for teachers.

The mass organizations need teachers; the unions need teachers; the committees for the defense of the revolution need teachers; administrative branches need teachers; the enterprises need teachers; even the party needs teachers. So there has always been a struggle going to hold onto the teachers and train more. The teachers are in great demand by other sectors.

That was one of the problems. But the time could come... [leaves thought unfinished] we have reduced the number of registrations. Now we do not have 36,000. Between 26,000 and 28,000 students are now registered in teacher-training schools.

We have continued to create the reserve. What does this reserve allow us to do? Well, it makes it possible for us to allow the teachers to go to school. We can give them the first year free and the final year also. If it becomes necessary, we can give even 2 years according to the reserves available. We now have a reserve of 8,000 teachers, and we will continue to increase it until we have 11,000. What are we going to do with that reserve when everyone has graduated? We are not going to settle with the 11,000, we will try to increase it to 45,000 teachers and professors. You will ask: what for? We simply say that when everyone has earned a bachelor's degree and all have their diplomas, every 7 years we will give a free year to each teacher and professor so that they may further study. [applause]

I have always told my comrades it is much better to have a well-educated person instead of having that person running around in an office. To use human resources in a rational manner, those citizens must be educated so that they perform really useful tasks. Can there be anything more useful than to make it possible for a teacher to have 1 year to attend the university? Can there be anything more useful than to allow a teacher 1 free year in the last year so the thesis can be prepared? Is this not the best way to use a citizen, a young man, a young woman?

Well, as all contributions have been going the way of education, these ideas have also served other sectors and other branches. If an idea is good or we think it is good, we try to generalize it. Can there be anything better than to have a mass of youths who feel themselves to be useful or who feel that they are making it possible for teachers and professors to study so many years? Those are teachers who will have bachelor's degrees by then, those personnel who will hold college degreees. No one can work 29 or 30 years without studying or only having very little free time because the obligations do not allow it. I believe this will facilitate a process of continuing education for our country's educational personnel.

When we apply this system to all the personnel, from the ones who work in child care centers to the university professors, the well-known sabbatical leave practiced in some illustrious and renowned universities is practiced among some professors, here, we are going to universalize the sabbatical year. [applause]

You will ask, where does the money come from for this? I would say as I was mentioning before, that we do not know yet. But it is a concept and if I explain it as such it is easy to understand. In our society the problem is in distributing [word indistinct] and distribute it well. Anyway, if we had an 18-year old youth who does not study or work, what is society going to do with that youth. Someone feeds that youth. One can figure out the kilograms of rice, meat, eggs, and milk he eats and drinks, clothes and shoes he wears, everything. Somebody [words indistinct] it must be his parents, or he has a pension, someone supports him. If he gets sick he goes to the hospital and one has to provide services for him. He uses the transportation system, he goes to the movies. He costs society. He exists. Society has not been able to incorporate him. In this case we say, would it not be better that he be a teacher, a doctor, a nurse? Any person costs society. In our society the problem is not to produce and redistribute, it is a simple problem of redistribution. [applause]

What happens in other societies? Other societies do not have the 265,000 teachers we have. They have one teacher for every 50 students and sometime even for 60.

In the places where they have one teacher with seven or eight students, they say that it is not profitable and leave the children without teachers. [Words indistinct] even if they let him do nothing and not collect a salary, anyway, it costs society. If we could increase salaries, if we could redistribute [words indistinct]. We operate under the premise of social solidarity; what is produced should be for the benefit of those who have been born in this country. What we have to do is to train them all and give all those human resources a rational use. This is possible if material resources are rationally used. Nobody is going to accumulate millions. No one is going to take money away from the country. You know that happens frequently elsewhere. There is no kind of flight of capital. Our country as an organized society which attempts to use material and human resources rationally can gather material resources, it can train human resources to provide a rational employment. This is where the money comes from, from the 10, 15, or 20 billion. What is the gross national product of the country or what can be called the gross national income. In our system we give in one way and collect in another. Nobody keeps profits here. The wealth is distributed and redistributed. Thanks to this, we have been able to carry out this plan which can be fantastic or can be taken from fantasy. I can assure you that what actually came from fantasy was the idea that things can be done and better than things that have been done. [applause] Life has shown that it is possible.

There are other advances which have been accomplished in education during this decade. It is progress in quality. There are many accomplishments in quality. For example, we have begun to introduce computers, computer education. We began at the universities. We realized we could not fall behind in that field. A preuniversity school of exact sciences was created. We watched that preuniversity school and we thought it was a very good idea. In that preuniversity school, the students followed their regular preuniversity program with reduced hours and, in addition, they received intensive training in physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, or electronics, intensive training regardless of what he was going to study later, medicine or any branch of biology, depending what he chose. He also received 90 hours of computer training per year, which in 3 years is 270 hours. Those students were admitted to those schools not according to their record but by opposition. It is the first kind of school I have heard of in my life which has to prohibit students from studying because they literally limit their studies. They are not allowed to study everything they want because they simply exceed themselves. It is the first time in my life... not too long ago I asked a teacher about how the school was doing and he said: I have to prohibit them from studying. I had never heard that. That educational system they have will, all those machines, all those resources for the study of computers, the laboratories they have... those language, physics, chemistry, computers laboratories are not excessively expensive. Usually, the ones who teach those subjects are university professors. The success of that school caught our attention and we decided to build two more schools, one in the center and another one in the eastern part of the country, with room for about 500 students. The idea was important. Because we had concluded that a more rational use of vocational schools could be achieved if students were admitted with a ninth grade and not with a sixth grade [words indistinct] instead of schools from sixth to twelfth grades schools from ninth to twelfth were created, that is, preuniversity schools. The best of all was when we arrived at the conclusion -- and I am explaining you the story of ideas, because ideas are born, grow, develop, and they even can grow old, we have to be careful with that [applause] -- that we had to turn all vocational schools in exact sciences vocational schools with the same equipment and with the same program these first exact science schools had. The capacity we have is around 30,000 plus the military vocational schools. And these schools, by the end of 1987, are going to have around 40,000 in these programs of exact science schools. This is going to represent an enormous progress in preuniversity education in the training of students who are going to attend universities.

We are also going to introduce computerization into all pre-university institutions and in all technology and professional schools, beginning with teacher's schools and secondary schools. It will be experimental only in the primary school. We do not want [corrects himself] we want to study this well to see if it is worth using in primary schools. We do not want children to become accustomed to carrying a calculator to add their figures and not learn how to add two plus two.

All these factors are under consideration, all these factors. [applause] We feel very optimistic about the idea of preparing that enormous mass of pre-university students at those levels, especially since we are conscious of the need to develop sciences and technology as fundamental for the future or, on the contrary, we will go backwards. Instead of evolving we will regress and become closer to the monkey.

The difference between the growth of developed countries is great, an abyss. Our countries have to make an enormous effort to catch up with those who are more advanced. It is possible and we are sure that we will achieve this. We have no doubt of this. [applause]

For example, the Unites States is a very advanced country in technology, but ask the middle-level students in the United States, including university students, where Rio de Janeiro is or Ecuador. [interrupted by applause] What is interesting is that while that country's government invades small countries like Grenada, which has an area of 400 sq km and 120,000 residents, intervenes in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the majority of U.S. citizens can be asked where Nicaragua is and they do not know. They are invading countries and they do not know where they are. [laughter] Incredible. [applause] That is incredible, intervening in countries and not knowing where they are. This is tremendous ignorance. They know nothing of the world. It really is a tragedy. You will not see that among Cuban students, not even in primary school. Primary school students know where the countries are.

The United States' educational system ranks 48th in the world. They are just a little ahead of Haiti. [laughter, applause] To rank 48th, the United States has approximately 70,000 people who are completely illiterate and functionally illiterate, which is a new category that has developed. [laughter] That is a lot of people. It would not be difficult for some countries to remain behind.

There are many scientific areas that we are promoting, important specialties, this and that, a lot of things. [applause] One must guarantee the citizens' mental capacity and the heart's intelligence. They can really do many things. I am convinced that they can do many things, fabulous things. We are now entering into the phase of quality, above all quality. We no longer can have quantitative advances, but qualitative advances. We are aware, very conscious that we have many things to do. We do not want all the secondary and middle-level professors to have degrees yet, because we do not have traditions in art, chemistry, physics, and mathematics.

The Latins have a greater tendency for other types of studies, which I am not underrating and with which I greatly sympathize -- history, literature, many things -- but we also need to know physics, chemistry, and mathematics. We need to [interrupted by applause] or on the contrary, those who know physics, chemistry, and mathematics will dominate technology and we will be enslaved. Physics, chemistry, mathematics, and the exact sciences are an instrument of liberation, independence for Third World countries. [applause]

How can we solve the problem of the deficit when there is so much call for other things? We have stressed and spoken of approximately 5,000 primary school teachers that have graduated. After graduation, they continue studying.

We pay their salaries so that they can continue studying. Physics, chemistry, and mathematics, but we will achieve those goals at 100 percent.

I have enumerated many problems so that you can have a clear idea of how all this was done. We learned and made mistakes. Fortunately, there were many successes and above all there was a basic idea for advancement, an awareness of the importance of education.

This has been done in other areas. One could speak at length on what has been done in the areas of health. Education and health are two areas that compete for first place. We have done this also in culture and sports. We have done this in other areas. We have done this in defense for a great length of time out of necessity against the threats of imperialism. We are also making these efforts in economy and without a doubt, all these generations that will be highly prepared will influence and are influencing the economy in a decisive way.

We have still not learned to use to the maximum the human resources we have created, but we are learning quickly and when we know it well, I believe that we will make great achievements in science and technology. We are also prioritizing scientific research and I believe we will go far in that area.

We emerged from nothing, totally destitute in knowledge. Now we have an enormous abundance of these resources. The secret is in knowing how to properly utilize them and I really believe we will do this.

The good experiences in education, we are [does not finish sentence]. We made a medical sciences detail. Now a technological detail is being organized for technical sciences. We have been transferring the good experiences from one sector to another. I was telling you that our efforts had to be in search of quality, or we should say in search of excellence, and we are in shape for this.

A country that in 1970 had 70 percent of its teachers without degrees and is now graduating thousands, and dozens of thousands are studying for degrees in primary education, can accomplish anything. Cuba has a large contingent of valuable education staffs, many of them doctoral candidates in educational sciences, as many of you have learned over the past few days, that dominate the material, the branch and have accumulated experience and have many years ahead of them. One must take into account that our professors are very young and have the world ahead of them.

We can propose quality and be assured that we will reach the areas in which we must continually advance. Now the continuous perfection process begins, the continuous search for quality which will not end. In a meeting such as this, we have provided much stimulation. We are supported by many experiences, much knowledge. We learn much. I am sure that our staffs, our educators will benefit enormously from this pedagogic congress.

My daring to speak here is nothing more than a manifestation of audacity because during the first years of the revolution we spoke about education, strategy in education. We know a little about how to carry out a revolutionary strategy and find a revolutionary objective, but I am aware that next to the thousands of specialty staffs that have been created over the years in our country, one must be careful in speaking about education and that is why I am limiting myself primarily to speaking about strategy, not about the content of education. [applause]

There may have been other topics and some have suggested other topics, but I think the amount of time I have spoken is sufficiently extensive. A Venezuelan, Julio, Dr Julio V (Jotman), how do you say it? [words indistinct by unidentified man] Vigo?

[Castro jokes about the man's name] correct. He was telling me something 2 nights ago and I recalled that when I was beginning, the Alliance for Progress met to combat the Cuban revolution. Education ministers met in approximately 1960 and spoke about the program to erradicate illiteracy in 10 years.

Now one can ask imperialism, where is the program? What were the fruits of that demagogy you used to trample the Cuban revolution and isolate her? Could they finally isolate her? I think this same meeting is a denial of the idea that the revolution can be isolated. [applause] Did illiteracy end in Latin America?

We have quietly eradicated illiteracy. We have struggled for the 6th grade and proceeded to the 7th grade for our population. We have struggled for the 9th grade and the majority of our workers, who work in the country cutting cane, cultivating land, have 9th grade educations for more.

Now our hemisphere is involved in a terrible crisis. Now it is serious. Before, they would say that Latin American problems could be resolved with some measures and some reforms and with an injection of $20 billion. Do you remember? Now what is happening? Each year they take twice the $20 billion they offered. Now what? Now we are more than double the number of inhabitants, double in illiteracy, double in the number of children that die before they complete their first year of life, double the number of sick, and malnourished. Now what do they offer? What do they propose? What is the manner they will use? Will they kill everyone in the hemisphere by hunger? Are they going to strangle them? Are they going to extort from them approximately $400 billion and approximately $40 billion in interest every year, not counting capital flight, unequal trade, protectionism? All this is costing the Latin American peoples $70 billion a year. In actuality they have paid $105 billion on interest and utilities. From this hungry, illiterate, malnourished continent, they have collected $105 billion to be put into the pockets of the capitalistic, developed countries.

I think you discussed this topic of the debt. You know that we are battling against this. Last year, we dedicated much time to this problem. This problem cannot be resolved. Each day the problem is more serious. Each hour it is more serious. It is waiting for a solution. We have spoken much about this. We will not repeat the idea. The Venezuelan had asked me to make a commentary on this topic.

There could be a lot done with what is being paid in interest. I have spoken about the exact sciences school or the pre-university in the country. That school cost us 1 million pesos. I am aware that in our countries one can do more with 1 peso than for $1 dollar in the United States.

There are many false figures because they include taxes in the amount. The same school that costs us $1 million costs them $7 million or $8 million. One needs to be aware what $1 million signifies for our countries, what can be done in any of our countries with $1 million well used.

Each one of those schools has the capacity for 600 students. If the $105 billion that has been paid in interest were to be dedicated to schools, 105 schools could be built. With the $35,000 [as heard] paid in one year, 35,000 schools could be built with a capacity for 21 million students.

I could give you another example. Our health system is very good. Our infant mortality indexes in the first year were lower than those of any other Third World country, lower even than several industrialized countries. Our average life span is 74.2 years. For the approximately 400 million Latin Americans to have a health system similar to Cuba, two-thirds would be left of what they are paying in interests and utilities every year.

With what Latin America pays in interests and utilities, they could have an educational system and do what we are doing in Cuba, if that money was used well, not stolen, did not leave the country, if events similar to what happens in other countries are not duplicated.

The extraction and despoiling to which we have become victims is incredible. We are being charged for a debt that has been paid many times. The capitalistic, industrialized countries were developed by the sweat and blood shed over centuries by our peoples. [applause]

As I was told, your role here was final in its conclusion. It is not a role of agitator or incendiary. It is not for me to say what has to be done immediately, changes everywhere. I think we are seeing a good moment in Latin America, an important historical moment of the opening of democracy. Now that that opening has been conquered, now that the imperialist plans to keep us downtrodden have failed, the conditions are indispensable for change. Very few are remaining isolated, the Pinochets, (Strongs), Duvaliers.

Those Papa Docs, so loved and esteemed by the Yankees, do not go there, organize mercenary bands, or approve loans in congress to organize the overthrow of Duvalier or Pinochet or the racist South Africans. They [interrupted by applause] approve loans for maintaining genocide in El Salvador, destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. They want health, education for the people but they cannot maintain this. I do not know how they can sustain Pinochet. They no longer can because the Pinochet regime is breaking up. [applause] Pinochet is unraveling as is happening with Papa Doc. No one knows, as Edgard was saying according to the news, there is no fear in making an error. If it did not happen yesterday, it will happen today and if not tomorrow or the day after, it is not far. Yes, clearly the Yankees have him there but they can no longer handle that hot potato. I say if they blow just a little, they will help, but no one wants to. The Yankees say it is the people's struggle which has placed the regime in a crisis which is at the boiling point because there is no other method. The truth is that they can no longer sustain him. Do you know why? Because one cannot sustain what does not exist. That is what is happening to him and the same will happen to Pinochet, if not tomorrow, then after tomorrow. It is not too far away. The same will happen to (Strong).

Few people are remaining because those people cannot even govern the countries. They have become unmanageable. We are seeing a good moment, a premise to the necessary changes, and clearly, we ask if it is possible under the current conditions and existing system. I would say that under the existing system many things can be done. More things could be done than are being done. Many times there are resources and more is not done. Unfortunately, more is not done.

If you ask me if it can be done with the existing Latin American system, I would frankly tell you, "no." I would explain that I am not promoting revolutions, I am not attempting to subvert anyone. But if one day, such as today while we close this event, you ask me if everything that we have done could be done without a revolution, I would tell you with complete frankness, "no." What we have done [interrupted by applause] cannot be done without a revolution.

We thank you dear comrades, dear guests. We appreciate the honor that you have given us by your presence.

The experiences, knowledge, and ideas that you have shared with us can be seen in this magnificent environment, this climate that has been created here. It can also be proved that the methods were capable of achieving something as difficult as a declaration. When politicians met, when representatives and other sectors met here in Havana, we would not make the effort to promote a declaration. Spontaneously, you yourselves have made a good declaration, a just declaration. I think that this contact that we have had should be continued. I think that this experience that we have acquired should be enriched. When any of you in any of your countries, any of the delegations here, want to have an event of this type, an educational meeting in any of the Latin American countries where conditions exist for this, you can count on all our support and all our cooperation. [applause]

We hope that the millions of teachers and professors, because even though we are an underdeveloped country, and even though we suffered many calamities, we nevertheless have the privilege of having millions of intelligent people, dozens of millions of intelligent people in the areas of health, education, in all the areas of human resources [does not finish sentence]. It is a tremendous force. It remains to be seen what can be produced by dozens of millions of intelligent people, what they could enrich, our culture, education, and science. We expect to have the privilege of becoming enriched with the fruit of all your experiences and at the same time complete the monumental responsibility of placing at your availability our modest experiences. Thank you. [applause]

GRENADA

BLAIZE ASKS EDUCATION MINISTER TO RESIGN

FL041820 Bridgetown CANA in English 1709 GMT 4 Feb 86

St. Georges, Feb 4, CANA -- Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said last night he had asked his junior Education Minister Kenny Lalsingh to resign over the alleged unauthorized acquisition of cement.

Last week Blaize failed to explain what had triggered the first resignation by a senior government official since his party's December 1984 electoral win, saying only that the move would give Lalsingh more time to look after his business affairs.

However, the outspoken Grenadian told reporters yesterday he was asked to quit because of unsubstantiated claims that he was selling government cement which should have been used on community projects.

In a radio broadcast, Blaize said: He, in my view, was guilty of very improper and irregular practices in seeking without authority to obtain for himself, or for the use of his community, materials from public works.

Blaize said that last Monday Lalsingh, parliamentary secretary in the Education Ministry and also a small businessman, persuaded a junior officer in the public service, who was responsible for checking the offloading of cement, to allow him to have 210 bags and sent his two trucks to collect them.

It turned out that this is not the first time Mr Lalsingh collected cement at the point of discharge without the authority of anybody in the Ministry of Works who has the responsibility for controlling this, Blaize said.

HAITI

DUVALIER CLAIMS SUPPORT OF ARMY, POPULATION

LD041533 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Most stores were open again yesterday in Port-au-Prince, proving according to the Haitian authorities that they have resumed control of the situation and that those who wanted to overthrow the regime of President Jean-Claude Duvalier have failed at least for the moment. To prove this, Jean-Claude Duvalier mingled with the market crowds yesterday, and he had soup distributed to his supporters.

Jean-Francois Moulin, a reporter from Radio Suisse Romande, was in the crowd and he was able to ask the Haitian dictator some questions:

[Begin recording] [Moulin] [words indistinct] President, have you come to town here to show that you have resumed control of the situation?

[Duvalier] Absolutely. The head of state is totally in control of the situation.

[Moulin] Today you are a calm man. Are you sure that you have resumed control of the situation?

[Duvalier] That is correct.

[Moulin] The West has always wondered: Were you at the airport on that famous Thursday?

[Duvalier] No, I was not at the airport [words indistinct] threatened, I was at the palace, [words indistinct] came out of the palace [words indistinct].

[Moulin] Are you still sure of having the situation under control? You are not frightened of the crowd [words indistinct] Port-au-Prince [words indistinct]?

[Duvalier] Absolutely not.

[Moulin] Do you have the support of the Army?

[Duvalier] We have the support of the Army, and we have the support of the population.

[Moulin] A last question, Mr President: In Europe people have wondered a lot about a so-called list of military men and civilians whom you are reported to have replaced. Where does that come from?

[Duvalier] You know in Haiti there are a lot of rumors and [words indistinct] people can easily lose their heads.

[Moulin] So, you are today even more certain than ever of being the president [word indistinct]?

[Duvalier] More certain than ever. [end recording]

OPPOSITION PREDICTS DUVALIER'S OVERTHROW

FL041945 Bridgetown CANA in English 1907 GMT 4 Feb 86

[By Gilles Trequsser]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Feb 4, CANA-REUTER - Shops in Haiti's capital remained closed today despite government calls for a return to work, and an opposition leader predicted the imminent overthrow of President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier. It's no longer a question of if (he) will go, but when, said former Cabinet Minister Hubert de Ronceray.

Political tracts urging a February 12-20 general strike, aimed at overthrowing Duvalier, have circulated in the capital. Duvalier's government, the target of violence which has left at least 70 people dead in the past week, 50 of them in Port-au-Prince, has been urging Haitians to return to work. Most business was paralyzed today, although banks and government offices were open and brightly painted buses crammed the dusty streets as usual. Schools, closed on January 7 due to protests, have not yet reopened. Business has been nil for the past two weeks. Everybody is waiting, a boutique owner in the Petion-Ville residential neighborhood said. The capital remained under a tightly enforced state of seige that suspends constitutional guarantees, including the right of assembly. Opposition leaders said the days of the Duvalier dynasty, which has been ruthlessly ruling Haiti for 28 years, were numbered. Duvalier toured the capital briefly under heavy guard yesterday, but De Ronceray scoffed at what he called a pathetic effort to show he's still the boss. Foreign observers said a measure of the discontent with Duvalier would come early next week at the start of the annual carnival festivities. Haiti is a powderkeg at the moment. The spark could be the carnival, one Western diplomat said.

EXILE LEADER ON CURRENT NATIONAL SITUATION

PA041558 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1440 GMT 4 Feb 86

[By Jose A. Delgado]

[Text] San Juan, Puerto Rico, 4 Feb (EFE) -- Paul Latortue, representative in the Caribbean of the Haitian Civic Movement and an exile in Puerto Rico, today told EFE that there are well-known political leaders inside and outside his country and that "it is not true that the protests lack leadership." While charging that the U.S. news media is carrying out a campaign to discredit the opposition to President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier, Latortue said that individuals such as Sylvio Claude, Hubert de Ronceray, and Gregoire Eugene have great prestige as leaders and that "those in exile have shown their leadership regarding opposition to Duvalier."

For the past 2 months, Haiti has been site of large demonstrations against Duvalier's lifelong presidency. The country entered into a crucial phase on Friday when it was announced in Washington that the president had left the country. Latortue also stressed the importance of the work carried out by the religious movements through Radio Lumiere and Radio Soleil and the work carried out by Sylvio Claude, a Protestant pastor.

"Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties has been transferring the work done by the church to a political party," Latortue said. He insisted that the Haitian president deceived the U.S. and French Governments. Latortue indicated that on Friday, when Larry Speakes, spokesman of the U.S. President, erroneously announced the fall of the Duvalier regime, the Haitian president must have promised the two governments that he would leave the country. "The plans were set. Duvalier had promised that he would leave. His departure was negotiated but the strong Tontons Macoutes (the political police) who probably did not let him leave," he said.

Nevertheless, Latourte, who has a doctorate in economics and is a professor at the University of Puerto Rico, said that despite the current situation, Haitians living abroad should not try to return to help in the struggle against Duvalier. "It would be very stupid for leaders in exile to show up in Haiti right now," he added. The Haitian leader said that international opinon should be concerned about the fact that the government has "prohibited" reporters from leaving the capital city. "The reason they have done this is to carry out a bigger slaughter," he said. The Duvalier government has told the international press that it would not be "responsible" for reporters, who leave the capital, where hundreds of foreign reporters are staying.

Latortue also rejected any U.S. intervention and explained that the essential thing is the departure of the president for life. "Haiti should hold elections at all levels. The uprising seeks the establishment of a democratic process. First, however, Duvalier must leave," he said. Even though there might be fear that the protest will decrease under the repression, Latortue said that in a few days or weeks, "sometime in the future, the demonstrations will return" and Duvalier will have to leave.